THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1879.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 30TH DECEMBER.

THE FOLLOWING is the inscription on the monument of Miss Mary Carpenter in British Cathedral:

Sacred to the Memory of
MARY CARPENTER,
Foremost among the founders of reformatory and industrial schools in this city and realm.
Neither the claims of private duty, nor the tastes of a cultured mind could withdraw her compassionate eye from the uncared for children in our streets.
Loving them while yet unlovely,
She so formed them to the fair and good as to inspire others with her faith and hope, and thus led the way to a national system of moral rescue and preventive discipline.
Taking also to heart the grievous lot of oriental woman, in the last decade of her life she four times went to India and awakened an active interest in their education and training for serious duties.
No human ill escaped her pity, or cast down her trust. With true self-sacrifice she followed in the train of Christ to seek and to save that which was lost, and bring it home to the Father in Heaven.
Desiring to extend her work of piety and love,
Many who honoured her have instituted in her name some homes for the houseless young,
And now complete their tribute of affection by erecting this monument.
Born at Exeter, April 3rd, 1807,
Died at Bristol, June 15th, 1877.

THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION, London, publishes some interesting correspondence regarding Rama Bai. It appears that an Address was presented to the Maharatha lady by some educated native ladies of Calcutta in the house of Mr A. M. Bose. We give the Address below:

"Respected Lady!—You are the glory of the Indian womanhood. Every one of this town has been astonished at the erudition displayed by you in Sanskrit learning. We feel honored ourselves at the honor and respect which you, a Country-woman of ours, have won by your learning, intelligence and poetical powers. Not we alone, but the whole of the inhabitants of India ought to be proud of you. You are an example of in what an elegant garb higher education can dress the heart of a woman. Formerly the name of foreign ladies of learning had to be cited as examples, now seeing you, we shall not have to search for illustrious examples in a foreign country. To what excellence in learning our women can attain by observing the customs and manners of ancient Hindus, people will be able to judge from you. We have heard and read of many learned and illustrious ladies of ancient times, in you we find those qualities exemplified. Notwithstanding that you possess learning and erudition of the highest order, we do not find any pride in you, but on the other hand, you seem to be a personification of modesty, simplicity, humility and sincerity.

"No public meeting has ever been convened for doing honor to a lady of this country. Your propitious advent to this part of the country has laid the foundation for such meetings. We wish with all our heart that seeing your excellent virtue, and independence there will germinate in the minds of our countrymen a spirit of honoring and respecting the women of our country. Remove from the minds of our countrymen the idea that freedom of the women is only a plant of exotic and outlandish growth. Our hearts yearn for conversation with you, but it is a misfortune that our mother tongue is not the same. For this reason our desires cannot be gratified. Yet we could not abstain from communicating to you our love and esteem. Accept our humble tribute of respectful welcome.

"We pray the Lord will keep you in health and safety. We pray God will grant you a long life, and that you may, being surrounded with happiness of all kinds, prove a model for Indian women in all things. This is the sincere wish of our heart."

ROMA BAI gave the following reply:

"Sisters and brethren!—You have done me a great honor this evening. I am greatly delighted at this reception. Probably you have said too much in my praise. You have made too much of a little thing. I thank you cordially for all this.

"I have little of your abilities in me. I see you have already combined knowledge with household duties. Sanskrit learning will benefit you. What are the Shastras? Those which give you knowledge. It is not at all difficult to learn Sanskrit, especially for those who know Bengali. Devote an hour a day—30 hours a month to the study of Sanskrit and you will learn a good deal. Sanskrit learning will make you acquainted with the women of ancient times. You will find that female education existed in olden times. You will also find that our women enjoyed liberty and independence. Draupadi sat out with her father Draupad Rajah, while he used to hold his Court. She dissuaded Judhistir from playing dice, saying that she had learnt from her father that playing dice brings on ruin. When Sreekrishna held his Court, he used to sit out with his mother. This shews there was no Zenana at that time. The seclusion of our women dates from the Mahomedan conquest. You will find that the Zenana obtains with all its rigor in those countries which were for a longer period under the subjection of the Mahomedans. As you go westward through India you will find the strict rules of the Zenana less and less observed. Travelling is very useful. You can study the manners and customs of different races of people and you can acquire knowledge. Early marriage shuts out all avenues of knowledge. Early marriage did not obtain in ancient India. If you study the Shastras you will find this. Then people say, women by not marrying early and by acquiring knowledge become corrupt. This is a mistake. Satya Bhama, Savitri and a host of others who may be named, prove this theory to be false. On the other hand, knowledge is a great safeguard against corruption. There may be exceptions. But are there not instances of corruption among those who are ignorant and shut up in Zenana? I am very much obliged for the kind words used in the address, which I do not fully deserve; I again thank you for the splendid reception."

THE ONLY INDIAN SCHOLAR present at the Oriental Congress, Florence, was Doctor Gerson da Cunha, of Goa, of a Brahmin family, who had been Christians for three centuries.

WE ARE told that as if to be in harmony with the Orient, the heat of the town of Florence, and indeed of Italy in general, during the Congress, was excessive. The Italians remarked that it was exceptionally hot. Florence is situated in a valley on the banks of the Arno, and is scarcely bearable by residents of Northern Europe until the first week of October. The Congress commenced on the 12th and ended on the 18th of September, and even old Indians admitted that the heat was a great drawback to the comfort of visitors.

A BENGALI contributes a paper to the *Journal of the National Indian Association* giving his experiences and impressions of America. He takes the following notice of the Deaf and Dumb College of Washington:

"It is situated far off from the city, in a lovely and extensive ground. The Government expended a good deal of money first by sending a professional gentleman to see the different institutions in Europe and elsewhere for the deaf. The formation of this college, with best appliances, was the result. There were about 107 pupils in last term at my visit. The pupils are required to pay 150 dollars a year for board, education, &c. There is a good library, where I found some diligent boys poring over some books. On presentation day in 1877 the students, though it would seem so strange, delivered two orations on "Oratory as a power in human history," and on "Botany as a study," as also a dissertation on "Mythology," before President Hayes and a learned company. Two received there the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Philosophy respectively. How does it speak of the enlightenment and good government of the States where even the deaf person can acquire a good knowledge and thus make himself a happy and useful member of society.

TUESDAY, 31ST DECEMBER.

WE ARE sorry to record the death of Babu Ram Chand Seal, which melancholy event took place this morning. He was banian of Messrs. Gladstone Wyllie & Co. A man of thorough business habits, gentle and amiable disposition, and high character, he was greatly respected by those who knew him. He was a self-made man, and amassed a large fortune. He was charitably disposed; he used to give Rs. 100 to the blind poor of this town per month. He was about 65 years of age.

THE FOLLOWING Indian gentlemen have passed satisfactorily in the Examination of the Inns of Court in Roman Law held in Michaelmas Term:—Mr. D. Dinshaw Davar, Mr. Syud Abdur Rahman, Mr. Syud Muhammed Sharafuddin, Mr. Sayyed Nurol Huda, and Mr. Krishna Nath Mitra. Mr. Mati Lal Gupta has joined the Middle Temple. Mr. Makhan Lal Dey has matriculated at the University of Aberdeen for medical study. Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan (N. W Provinces) has entered University College, London, as a medical student. Mr. Syed Hassan, M.B. (Calcutta University), has proceeded to England to compete for the Indian Medical Service.

THE FOLLOWING Parsi gentlemen have gone to England with the intention of going in for the Indian Medical Service Examination:—Mr. Edalji Palanji Frenchman (Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery), Mr. Hormasji Dosabhai Pesikaka, Mr. Framjee Rattonjee Divecha, and Mr. Cooverjee Cowasjee Vaid.

IN THE recent Examinations of the University of London, Mr. Pramatha Nath Bose passed in the Second B. Sc. Examination (Second Division).

A FEARFUL FAMINE, it appears, has broken out in the Philippine Islands. A prolonged drought has brought the inhabitants of these islands to a state of starvation, and their destitution has been intensified by the ravages of locusts, which have cleared off the remnants of the maize and vegetable crops. Many of the people subsist on roots, other food being unprocurable. In some districts the streams and wells have dried up under the influence of the intense heat and the want of rain. The inhabitants of the Masbate district have to go three miles in search of water. The appearance of the swarms of locusts, following here, as in India and other countries, on severe drought, seems, says the *Times*, to bear out the theory that the existence and multiplication of these insects are favoured by dry weather. It is probable that careful search at proper seasons would reveal the existence of the eggs or larvæ, which might then be destroyed before their campaign of destruction was commenced.

THE PEKIN OFFICIAL GAZETTE publishes a communication from a learned Chinese, who demonstrates at least to his own satisfaction—that the "far-speaking tube" was already known about A.D. 962, and was the invention of an inhabitant of Pekin.

CANALS, it appears, have not proved successful in China. We read the following account of the Great Canal of China:

"The Grand Canal of China.—This canal is likely to share the fate of the Great Wall. This water-way was constructed by Kublai Khan and his successors of the Yuen race, and is 600 miles in length. There are 10,000 flat-bottomed boats on this canal, and these are used in the transportation of grain. The *London Echo* states that this great water-way is an enormous "white elephant," as it costs an immense amount every year for repairs, the appropriations there, as elsewhere, not being entirely devoted to the purposes for which they are meant. Junks are delayed every month while channels are dug for their passage. This year, for the first time since the construction of the canal, the grain from Nanking, with the consent of the government, has been forwarded by sea, and this fact has impelled the Peking authorities to consider the expediency of abandoning the canal as a commercial highway.

MISS FAITHFUL mentions, in her lecture on "Modern Extravagance," that the banquet given to the Prince of Wales on his return from India cost no less than £27,576. Such is the cost of public dinners in England.

AN INGENIOUS system has been adopted in Australia to prevent the savages from destroying the telegraph poles. The engineers have arranged supplementary electric currents, so that whoever touches any of the poles instantly receives a violent shock. This unaccountable result inspires the savages with such terror that they no longer dare tamper with the mysterious wires, which, to their bewilderment, traverse their extensive territory from end to end. Through this expedient a telegraph connection is preserved for thousands of miles without the expense of watching the poles.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST JANUARY.

WE TAKE from an English paper the following thrilling story of a daughter's devotion:

Among the curiosities to be seen at the International Exhibition at Paris is a growth of human hair, the very longest which has been offered for sale. It is nearly seven feet long, and is of the most exquisite golden colour, luxuriant and silky. Its history is as follows: A young Norman girl, Meriot by name, lived with her mother in the extremest poverty. The latter being sick for several years, constantly needed little luxuries and comforts which the daughter was utterly unable to supply. A peddler knowing the family, and being acquainted with their poverty, took advantage of the circumstance to offer 100 francs (about Rs. 40) for the daughter's superb hair. The poor old woman, to whom the girl's golden locks were her only pride, absolutely refused to part with them. The daughter, however, who, though scarcely seventeen years of age, understood the great benefit of even that sum, made a sign to the peddler. Apparently giving up the idea, the would-be merchant retired. The young girl soon followed him, and though unable to restrain her tears at the sacrifice, permitted him to shear her crown of glory to the roots, for 100fr. The hairdresser now possessing this beautiful hair has already refused an offer of 3,500 francs from a lady of title, being confident of obtaining a much higher price for it after the Exhibition.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Benares Star* gives the following version of the Furrackabad scandal:

"Before the *Dusserah* vacation works fell greatly in arrears in the Sub-judge's Court at Furruckabad and the Sub-judge intending to make them up by sitting during the holidays bade all the Court Officers to be present during the time. Every one attended accordingly, but his Nazir alone, was absent. It appears that he complained to the Judge, pleading urgent business after Pandit Har Sahai not granting his application for leave, and the Judge, Mr. Saunders, being very fond of his own Nazir and the Sub judge's nazir happening to be his brother, could not help pleasing his *proteges* brother. But the absent Nazir was done away with when he turned up after the vacation, and again the Judge, Mr. Saunders, interferes and reinstated the man. Upon this Pandit Har Sahai went of a morning to the Judge's bangalow to convince him of the Nazir's grave breach of discipline but he was denied the interview. For this the Pandit was telling to one of his servants that the Judge should have seen him coming as he did upon some urgent business, when out rushed Mr. Saunders of his room and straightway began striking him some blows, but the Pandit disinclined to pocket the insult retaliated."

IT IS stated that the German Government proposes to extend a network of subterranean telegraph cables so as to make it eventually embrace all the principal commercial towns in the Empire. The underground cables, being exposed to no dangers from atmospheric influences nor from mischievous hands, are considered to have thus far answered extremely well, but they are not absolutely free from danger.

THE GOLOS states that the Russian Budget for 1877, shows an excess of expenditure over revenue of 465,542,069 roubles. An extra sum of 6,000,000 roubles is to be devoted in 1879 to purposes of naval construction. It is stated that the Government, though very desirous of adding ships to the Russian navy, finds it almost impossible to do so for want of sailors. Steps are now being taken to supply this want by the establishment of schools for the training of seamen for the navy at various points on the Russian coasts. Ten such schools are being established in the Baltic provinces, five on the shores of the White Sea, and six in other parts of the country.

ACCORDING to the last report of the Russian Minister of Education, the number of elementary schools in the empire, excluding the Caucasus, Finland, and the Baltic provinces, was 25,077. The number of pupils attending these schools was 1,036,851, of whom 856,139 were boys, and only 180,712 girls. There is one school for every 3,070 of the inhabitants, and the proportion of children attending school was 1·3 per cent.

A PETITION, signed by upwards of two thousand Parsis of Bombay, was, on Wednesday week, sent to Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, *Bart.*, and the other trustees of the Parsi Punchayet Funds, asking them to take measures against the increasing prostitution among female members of the Zoroastrian community. This is a melancholy sign of the times.

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY.

WE ARE INFORMED that the telegraph line to Ali Masjid is now open.

MR. NEPEAN of the Forest Department, British Burma, has been shot by a dacoit whilst sitting in his tent in the Amherst district near Siam Frontier.

A TELEGRAM from Jellalabad dated 27th and Jumrud 29th states that Sayyed Muhammed of Kunar has written a friendly letter to Major Cavagnari announcing his intention of coming in.

A CORRESPONDENT from Central India complains of the mathematical papers of the last Calcutta University Entrance Examination. He fears that about 80 per cent. of the candidates will fail. All persons, who feel interest in education in Central India, the writer says, have noticed the questions with "anger and dismay." The same correspondent does not approve of the educational policy of Mr. Raghonath Rao, the energetic Dewan of His Highness the Holkar. He says that Mr. Raghonath Rao has not much faith in Maharatta educated Brahmins, and that they in their turn distrust him. The contemplated changes in the education department of Indore our correspondent thinks will considerably lower the position and emoluments of the Superintendent of State education in His Highness the Maharaja's territories. We give the statements and remarks of our correspondent for what they are worth.

WHAT is the matter with the Nuddea district? A correspondent notices the discovery of some defalcations in the education department of the district. A sub-inspector, who was for some time employed in that district, and has since been transferred elsewhere, is accused of having submitted full receipts to the magistrate for stipends and annual rewards alleged to have been paid to the gurus and others concerned, without actual payment having been made. The credit of the discovery is said to belong to Baboo Kanti Chunder Chatterjee, the energetic Deputy Inspector of Schools of Nuddea.

ACCORDING to the *Pioneer* the Kandahar Column is now clear of the Khojak Pass and may be expected to reach Kandahar on the 4th or 5th. No serious opposition is expected.

WE ARE SORRY to observe that the great firm of Nurseoy Kessewjee and Co of Bombay has failed. It was hoped that a large loan from one of the Banks would tide over the difficulty. Finally, however, it appears that adequate securities were not forthcoming, and the loan was never granted.

WE SEE IT STATED that the legislature of Australia is about to send delegates to England to secure an amendment of the constitution; or, as it has been officially stated, "to find some way of keeping Governors and Colonial Secretaries in check, and prevent them from foiling the aspirations and beneficent intentions of liberal statesmen."

FRIDAY, 3RD JANUARY.

GENERAL MAUDE reports some malcontents of Kukikhel collected in Khaibar Pass. Two camp followers straying at night were killed, and five miles of telegraph wire cut and carried off, but passage of convoys not interfered with. Another telegram from the Khaiber dated the 1st states that a skirmish had taken place with the Afridis with slight loss on both sides.

NEWS FROM KABUL reports that Yakub Khan produced money to pay the troops on conditions that Daud Shah became security for the troops, as many who had been paid had deserted. It was also required that officers and soldiers should speak on the Koran to stand by Yakub Khan. As General Daud Shah declined to be security payment was withheld. It is stated that out of four regiments who attended to receive pay all deserted except 150 men.

WE ARE requested to mention that during the month of December 1878, twenty thousand two hundred and twenty-eight persons visited the Indian Museum. Of natives there were 17,757 males and 1,531 females, and of Europeans 765 males and 175 females. The daily average of visitors was 749.

WE PUBLISH in another column an advertisement from the "Young Men's Rowing Club," giving the rates of subscription for admission into that club. The club, we are informed, has been in existence for some time, and though respectably conducted it has not received the desired support. Rowing is a suitable exercise for young men fond of athletic sports. The club will do well to include "swimming" in its programme.

THE TOTAL loss of life in the Kashmir Famine is estimated, according to the last Punjab Administration Report, at 150,000 out of a population of half a million.

IN FUTURE the charge for telegrams to Europe will be as follows: *via* Suez or Teheran, Rupees 2-12 per word; *via* Turkey 2-8 per word; and the rates to all other places out of India will be proportionately increased.

WE READ that some three hundred Archbishops and Bishops, together with about 100,000 other persons, lay and clerical, have been organizing themselves in Europe for a pilgrimage to Goa. So the rage for pilgrimage has not passed away.

MR. EDISON, it is said, has not only succeeded in sub dividing the electric light, but has shown the possibility of adjusting the brilliancy of any particular light in the circuit without waste of current by so doing. It is estimated that the sum of £ 2,000,000 is invested in the six great gas companies of London. So electric light seems to be destined to put out gas. In Calcutta thanks to the short-sightedness of the Municipal Commissioners we are bound down by a contract for 21 years.

SATURDAY, 4TH JANUARY.

WE ARE sorry to learn that the illness of the Maharaja Scindia causes anxiety. Dr. Beaumont is in attendance upon his His Highness.

WE HEAR that Mr. Monro takes leave for two months, and that Mr. Pellew acts for him as Inspector General of Police. Mr. Harrison also takes leave for a short time, and Mr. Lowis, late Commissioner of Chittagong, acts for him as Senior Secretay to the Board of Revenue.

WE HOPE there is truth in the statement that the Council of India had lately a meeting to consider the financial position of India and the subject of taxation. It is added that the Council have expressed their opinion that India cannot bear fresh taxation at the present time. But what does all this signify? The Secretary of State for India has himself proposed that India should defray the cost of the Affghan war.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed in Manchester to promote stoppage of supplies for the Affghan war. This Committee is advertizing that all willing to co-operate in this object will be good enough to send in their names without delay to the Secretary, Anti-Affghan War Supplies Committee, Junior Reform Club, Cheapride, Manchester. But the Committee cannot prevent the Government from laying its hands upon the Indian treasury.

WE HAVE received the following letter from LUCKNOW:

You will highly oblige me to take notice in your valuable journal of a meeting which was convened at the instance of the Julsa Tahzib, Lucknow, on the 28th Instant at Lall Baradarie 11 AM, There were some 500 men of all classes including Princes of the Ex-royal family of Oude, bankers, traders, native public servants &c. &c present in the meeting.

Nawab Mootamzooddowlah Bahadoor was voted to the chair and a paper was read in the Vernacular explanatory of the action of the Government in the Afghan War.

Mirza Afgha Ali Khan Saheb, Ex-Nazim of the late Oude Government, suggested the desirableness of raising a subscription for the relief of soldiers European and native that may be killed in the action.

Moonshi Pazeil Hossein Saheb of the Hoosenabad endowment supported the scheme. A Managing Committee was then appointed. I send you by separate post English translation of the address that was read in the meeting.

Yours faithfully,
ERIKISHEN PUNDIT
Secretary Julsa Tahzib, Lucknow

31st *Decr.* 1878.

We have read the address with great pleasure. It does much credit to the Julsa.

THERE were 444 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 21st December, of which 34 were from cholera, 5 from small-pox, 200 from fever, 82 from bowel complaints, 23 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. The deaths among non-Asiatic and mixed races were 23.

MR. G. A. GRIERSON, B C. S. has contributed to the Asiatic Society's Journal an interesting paper on Kalidasa. It contains some legendary traditions current in Behar, concerning the famous poet Kalidasa, who was born at Damodarpur, a village near the town of Achait in Tirhoot. They are chiefly illustrative of his great powers of improvisation. We give below an abstract of this paper:

The first legend narrates a story of his youth; how being at first little better than an idiot, he afterwards came to be possessed of his unrivalled power over the Sanskrit language by the special interposition of the goddess Durga. The second legend is an amusing story about Kalidasa at the court of Raja Sibhai Singh. This Rajah was a great patron of pandits; but he was wont to regulate his patronage not by their learning, but by their weight. Kalidasa being a small lean man, persuaded a fat and unwieldy shepherd to accompany him and personate his *guru* promising that he would do all the talking, while the shepherd should never utter a word. The ruse succeeded. The shepherd was installed as chief pandit at the Rajas court, and Kalidasa as his disciple. One day, however, the shepherd forgot himself and spoke a word in his vulgar idiom in the presence of the king and his court, and Kalidasa, with great presence of mind composed a verse on the spur of the moment, in which he made an ingenious defence of his *guru's* blunder. This, of course, did not save the shepherd, but made Kalidasa famous throughout the three worlds. The third legend relates to the manner in which Kalidasa procured his admission to the court of king Bhoja by first stimulating gross ignorance and afterwards confounding the king's chief pandit by a sudden display of his remarkable power in composing extempore verses in Sanskrit. The fourth legend relates an incident at king Bhoja's court; how Kalidasa by means of some ingeniously worded verses outwitted three pandits who through their great powers of memory had hitherto confounded all claimants to the king's favour. The fifth legend relates how in the early years of his ignorance Kalidasa conciliated his wife who was a learned woman and acted to him the part of a Xanthippe by his miraculously acquired knowledge. The sixth legend tells of a narrow escape of Kalidasa from the clutches of a man-devouring *pisacha* by his gift of improvising verses. The next two legends relates two other incidents at the court of King Bhoja, which also illustrate the ready power of Kalidasa of composing Sanskrit verse on the spur of the moment. Then follows a legend, showing how Kalidasa used to do in his marketing improvised Sanskrit verse. The series concludes with a legend, giving a conversation between Kalidasa and his wife in extempore verses during a morning walk by the side of a tank covered with lotuses.

AT THIS morning's sitting of the Bengal Council three minor Bills were introduced. Mr. Mackenzie also introduced the new Rent Bill. The debate upon the Bill was adjourned to next Saturday.

BABU MOTHURANATH SURMA of Sylhet informs us that the judgment in the case of Radhagobind Munsui has been delivered, acquitting him of the charge laid against him under Section 189 of the Indian Penal Code. We hope our correspondent will send us a copy of the judgment.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in the Bengal Presidency for 1877-78. 2. Review of the Forest Administration in the several Provinces under the Government of India for 1876-77. 3. Robinson Kruso, translated from the Urdu into Persian by Shere Ali of Kabul and edited in the Roman character by T. W. H. Tolbort Esq. B. C. S. 4. English Translation of a Vernacular Address delivered by the Julsa Tahzib of Lucknow before the People of the City of Lucknow, explaining the Proclamation of the Government of India dated 30th November 1878, on the Affghan Question 5. The Liberator, new series Vol. IV No. 48. 6. George's Pocket Almanac and Diary for 1879. By P. G. George. 7. The Calcutta Advertiser Calendar for 1879. By D. M. Trail. 8. Dutta's Homœopathic Series in Bengali, No. VIII. 9. Annual Report of the Bow Bazar Government Aided Vernacular School for 1877. 10 A Bengali pamphlet against Kine-slaughter by Umaprosad Sen.

WE THANK Mr. Trail for a copy of his shop almanac for 1879, and Mr. P. G. George for a copy of his pocket almanac for 1879. The first is an ornament, and the second is useful as a pocket companion.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London 29th December,—A letter written by the Queen has been published, in which she expresses her most heartfelt thanks for the universal sympathy shown during her recent heavy affliction. A difficulty has arisen concerning British jurisdiction in Cyprus, which Italy contests.

31*st*.—The great strike at Oldham of 11000 operatives against a reduction of 5 per cent has collapsed.

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

1st.— The published revenue returns for the quarter ending December amount to £19,000,000 showing an increase of £1,687,100 as compared with last year. The call upon the shareholders of the Glasgow Bank has yielded £690,000. A five shilling dividend will be declared in the middle of February. Mr. Leresche the Secretary of the Bank who was arrested for complicity in frauds connected with the Bank has been released as a witness for the Crown.

3rd.—The official correspondence respecting the reforms in Asiatic Turkey, has been published. A despatch from Lord Salisbury, dated 4th December, states that the concessions made by the Sublime Porte, although not altogether consistent with the English scheme of reforms on account of the jealousy they exhibit towards the assistance of Europeans yet constitute an adequate instalment of the reforms proposed. News has been received that whilst the *Thunderer* was lying at Ismind a terrible accident occurred resulting in a sad loss of life. A gun burst the result being seven men killed and forty wounded. The Turret in which the gun was placed was completely destroyed. Sir Michael Hicks Beach addressing a meeting at Gloucester spoke of the prevailing distress in England which he asserted had been greatly exaggerated for party purposes. He also expressed his conviction that there was every prospect of permanent peace. Consols closed at 9⅜ a rise of ¼ on previous quotations.

4th.—Lord Derby, speaking at Rochdale, referred to the prvailing distress throughout England. He declared the extent was exaggerated, though at the same time the depressed state of trade was severe.

Constantinople, January 1st. A panic prevails here in consequence of the enormous depreciation in Caimes(assignats).

2nd.—The Sultan to-day held a reception of the diplomatic body at which friendly assurances were exchanged

Berlin, January 2nd. Semi-Official Provincial Correspondence to-day publishes an article in which it declares that the horizon of foreign affairs is clearer than it has been for a long time. Confidence is expressed in the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

St. Petersburg 28th December.—The *Golos* publishes an article which remmends (? recommends) the abolition of military administration in Asiatic Provinces and the transfer instead to the Central Government.

29th.—Negociations for the definitive treaty of peace between Russia and Turkey commences at once. It is announced that Russia does not intend to exact immediate payment of the war idemnity. When the treaty has been signed, the Russian troops are to evacuate. The marriage of the Duke of Connaught which was postponed in consequence of the death of the Princess Alice, has been fixed for 13th of March 1879.

Washington January 1st.— The Secretary of the United States Treasury holds the sum of forty millions of dollars in gold to be applied to the resumtion of specie payments.

Vienna 18th December.—A plot to assassinate the Emperor has been discovered.

Lisbon, 3rd.—The Assembly was opened to-day, the king adressing the two Chambers, announced that a treaty had been concluded with England for the construction of a railway connecting Goa with British India. The 29th Regiment is ordered to India. Consols 95⅝.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1879.

RETROSPECT OF 1878.

ANOTHER twelve months have rolled away into the ocean of eternity. The year 1878 will mark an era in the history of Europe and Asia. The war between Russia and Turkey was brought to a close during the year. Both the combatants fought bravely and perseveringly. The generalship on both sides was of the highest order. The Osmanli, though pronounced a "sick man", shewed by his heroic feats, that the courage and spirit of his fathers were not dead in him; that his attachment to his fatherland was unabated; that his prowess had not diminished one jot. Unfortunately there was no unity in his council, no adequate force at his command in consequence of paucity of numbers, not money enough in his treasury. He was thus placed at great disadvantage in fighting the Cossack. Man to man the Turk proved more than a match for the Cossack. No one could read the accounts of the Russo-Turkish war without feeling a thrill of emotion and admiration for the personal courage, patience, devotion and self-sacrifice evinced by the Turk, but the fates were against him. He had been led to hope for succour from other quarters, but the nations of Europe remained neutral. They knew well that Russia by the mere force of numbers was sure to carry the day in the end, but they did not stretch forth their smallest finger to assist Turkey. They did not sympathize with the Turk, for they looked upon him as an intruder upon the soil of Europe. They regarded the war as an issue between Christianity and Mahomedanism, as a struggle between the Cross and the Crescent. But beneath this religious view there was a deep political feeling. Prince Bismarck it is notorious holds at the present day the Balance of Power in Europe. His sympathy has been on the side of Russia. His Imperial Master is the Uncle of the Czar, and there has been a secret compact between the Uncle and the Nephew. With Germany sympathizing with Russia the other nations of Europe did not dare unsheath their swords. England, though divided in the national council, cherished a secret sympathy for Turkey, but she was isolated from Europe. She tried her best to avert the war, but her appeal was not responded to by the cabinets of Europe. France was suffering from the effects of her late prostration, and would not hastily pick up a quarrel with Germany. Austria dreaded the power of Bismarck, while Italy did not care for Turkey. Turkey was consequently left to her own fate. She did her best, but was at last defeated in fair fight. She sued for peace, and her enemy granted her prayer on conditions, which tended to almost efface her from the map of Europe. England saw danger to her own interests in the supremacy which Russia would acquire in Assia under the terms of the peace, and she accordingly employed her diplomatic skill to curb Russia's ambition. She backed her proposals by a display of her military resources. She called forth her legions not only from the United Kingdom and her colonies but also from her Indian dependency. This demonstration had a good moral effect upon Russia; she did not like to have a second war in hand, with her men disabled by sickness and her treasury exhausted. So she agreed to a Peace Congress at Berlin under the presidency of Prince Bismarck. For the first time after the lapse of some sixty years England's voice was felt in Europe. The Prime Minister and the Indian Minister represented England in the Berlin Congress. The result of the deliberations of the Congress was a revision of the map of Turkey. The preponderance of Russian influence in Turkey could not be resisted after her success in the field of battle, but England did not shut her eyes to no I. She obtained the cession of Cyprus on the promise of protection to Turkey, while she guarded her interests in Asia by securing a voice in the administration of Asia Minor. The part which England thus played in the partition of Turkey was not considered perfectly honorable in Europe and even by a large section of her own children, but her ministers had won the day. They returned home with these words inscribed on their banners—"we bring peace and glory!" John Bull was satisfied—he perceived that he had received a *quid pro quo* for the taxes laid upon him. But the complications did not end with the conclusion of the Berlin treaty. There were rumours of bad faith on the part of Russia, and there were fresh negociations set on foot by England. As the year closed we received the assuring intelligence that Russia will faithfully fulfil the conditions of the treaty, that she will not immediately enforce the indemnity bond, and that her troops will commence at once to evacuate. Thus the year before coming to a close saw the completion of the work of peace. But the torch of war has been lighted in Asia. Our Government is engaged in a bloody feud with Affghansthan. We will notice below this episode in the history of the past year. We cannot close this rapid glance at the events in Europe without adverting to the surge of anti-monarchical feeling, which seems to run high in Europe. Three crowned heads were aimed at by three parties of anti-monarchists in Russia, Germany and Italy. The consequence has been repressive legislation and limitation of the freedom of speech and writing. It is impossible to foresee the consequences of this anti-monarchical feeling in the countries of Europe.

ENGLAND AND INDIA.

India occupied an unusually large share of the attention of England last year. The political value of India to the United Kingdom was suddenly realized by the brilliant Asiatic genius of the Prime Minister. Russia threatened British interests by her gigantic success in Turkey; England was alarmed, and she protested against Russia's original treaty with Turkey. In order to suit action to the word Lord Beaconsfield made military preparations on a large scale. And he turned to India for assistance. He imported Indian Sepoys to keep Russia at bay. The idea seemed to be so incongruous to us that we could not help laughing at it. We could hardly believe that the thought had seriously entered the head of the British Premier that a few thousands of Indian Sepoys, however brave or skilful, would or could serve as a counterpoise to the Russian hordes, but the idea nevertheless did succeed. England's resources in India seemed to be boundless, and Europe wondered at her audacity in fighting her European enemy with her Asiatic soldiers. In England this move of Lord Beaconsfield was regarded as extremely unconstitutional and fraught with danger to the political institutions of the country and symptomatic of a stretch of Imperialism, which could find parallel only in the history of the Napoleans. The gladiators of parliamentary debate mustered strong against the ministry, but neither rhetoric, nor logic, nor precedent could withstand the irresistible force of numbers. The overwhelming majority, which the ministry commanded in the House of Commons, defeated the Opposition on every point. We in India who are unaffected by the waves of party rivalry have one reason for national gratulation in the much condemned measure of Lord Beaconsfield. It has afforded the Princes and soldiers of India a rare opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty to the British Crown. When the news came that the sepoys would be invited to fight Russia in Europe their hearts leapt with joy—with one voice they shouted—"*Maharanike joi*"! Caste, country, religion, family ties, all, all were set aside for the gratification of the inmost loyal feeling in the sepoy's heart. A spirit of generous rivalry also arose between the native princes for demonstrating their friendship and fidelity to the Paramount Power. The Nizam, the Sindia, the Holkar, the Rajputana Princes and the Punjab Chiefs vied with each other in this enthusiastic competition. This phase of the Indian mind had it would seem far greater effect upon Europe at large than the despatch of a few thousand sepoys to Malta. Somehow or other a notion had gone abroad that the Indians were not attached to the British Crown, but the loyal enthusiasm, which Lord Beaconsfield's move evoked throughout India, not only removed that notion, but shewed the grandeur of British power in the East to the best advantage. This splendid spectacle of Indian loyalty greatly touched Her Majesty the Queen, who in a message to her Viceroy in India, publicly acknowledged the attachment and devotion of her Indian feudatories, soldiers, and subjects. There were other important Indian questions, which engaged the attention of England during the last year. Early in the session a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enqure into and report on the public works of India. The Committee examined several witnesses and collected a mass of valuable facts, but the submission of the report has been deferred till the next session. The subject of the Home military charges of India proved a fruitful theme of discussion in Parliament. Since the amalgamation of the British and Indian armies the Home military charges of India have been steadily increasing, so much so that within the last two years there had been an increase of about two millions. This financial result was due to some arithmetical jugglery of the War Office, which, though intelligible to the India Office, could not be practically prevented. The Government of India had repeatedly remonstrated against this iniquitous increase of its Home military expenses, but without effect. The taxpayers of India could no longer acquiesce in this gross and growing injustice, and so in April last they assembled in public meeting at the Town Hall in Calcutta to protest against it with special reference to the new and increased burdens laid upon them. Their petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Fawcett, and to the House of Lords by Lord Northbrook. In the House of Commons the usual Indian speakers took part in the debate, but in the House of Lords Lord Northbrook made a masterly and exhaustive statement on the subject of Indian finance and taxation. His Lordship it is well known possesses a judicial cast of mind. He is unmoved by passions of party strife. He looks to truth and justice, and the words of such a man speaking with the weight of Vice-regal responsibility released not many months past could not but com

mand attention. The House listened to him most patiently, but Lord Beaconsfield's majority again tricked India of its merited justice. Perhaps something would have been done in the way of redress, if England had not been threatened at the time with a war with Russia and Affghanistan, if in short a war with Russia had not been hanging upon a thread, and if grave complications had not arisen in Affghanstan. There were questions of lesser importance discussed in Parliament, but we need not notice them. By far the most momentous question of India's domestic politics, which came before Parliament last year, was the Vernacular Press Act. The principle of that Act and the manner in which it was passed alike filled the unprejudiced English mind with astonishment, horror, contempt and regret. The statesmen of England could not believe that English rule in India had come to such a pass as to necessitate the repression of freedom of speech and writing among the Indian subjects. Their instincts as a free nation revolted at the very thought of it. That apostle of liberty, equality and humanity, the Right Hon'ble W. E. Gladstone, most generously espoused the cause of the Indians. He was chiefly instrumental in promoting a debate upon the Press Act, the like of which had not been seen since the great debate on Lord Ellenborough's Oudh despatch. But again Lord Beaconsfield's Parliamentary majority neutralised the effects of this independent and influential advocacy of India's interests. One thing is, however, clear and satisfactory. The ranks of the India Reform Party in England are strengthening, a wider interest is now evinced in Indian affairs, and a mere hopeful future therefore awaits us. The Home Rule Party of Ireland, the Independent Members of the Liberal Party, and the Ex-Indians in Parliament have all combined to advocate India's cause. The Press of England also now bestows more attention upon Indian matters. The Affghan question has imparted an impetus to this increased interest in India. An Affghan Committee, consisting of some of the most eminent Members of Parliament, has been formed to watch the interests of India. For the last three months the English papers teemed with leaders, letters, official papers and speeches relating to India and Affghansthan; it would seem as if the Affghans had invaded England herself. But sad to say as in other matters so in this the overwhelming Parliamentary majority of Lord Beaconsfield sacrificed the interests of India at the altar of Party. Not only has the declaration of war against Affghansthan been confirmed, but the motion of the ministry to charge upon Indian Revenue the cost of the War against reason, law and equity has been carried triumphantly. The poor taxpayers of India may well mourn their lot, and say that with the increased attention on the part of England have come upon them increased burdens upon their devoted heads.

The last year witnessed a change in the head of the India Office. Lord Salisbury, who had for the last five years performed the role of the Great Mogul at Westminster Hotel, made room for Mr. Gaythorne Hardy, the War Minister, who took the name of Lord Cranbrook. A statesman of great ability, energy, shrewdness and firmness, Lord Salisbury, when he resumed the charge of the India Office, had held out promise of great future excellence, but during his five years' rule he showed so much waywardness, doggedness and hot-headedness that all classes in India, official and non-official, European and Native became impatient of his domination. They therefore hailed the advent of Lord Cranbrook as a relief. The public have not yet had sufficient time to test the individualism of His Lordships' mind, but it is evident that he is not so despotic as his predecessor.

THE AFFGHAN WAR.

As the year drew to a close the air resounded with battle cries. ON to Affghansthan was the order of the Government to our troops. The cloud which had been gathering in the political horizon for the last two years had at last burst. Lord Lytton had come out with a war manifesto against Affghansthan in his pocket. The wait and watch policy of the past Government had not proved paying, and an active intervention was therefore substituted in lieu of masterly inactivity of prior days. The programme had been chalked out for his Lordship by Lords Salisbury, and Beaconsfield, and the first manifestation of the new "spirited" foreign policy of our Government was the Pelly Conference ordered by Lord Lytton in the autumn of the first year of his administration. At that Conference the British Ambassador dictated certain stipulations, which the Amir's representatives could not accept, and the result was a complete break-down of the negociations. Our Government then quietly pocketed the snub, which it received from the Amir, and if it had not been then on the verge of a general war in Europe, it would have perhaps retaliated the insult by sending an avenging army to the gates of Kabul. But England then did not like to have a war simultaneously in Europe and Asia, and so she bided her time with the return of peace in Europe. The war proclivities of the Government of India received a new impulse from the fact that Russia had stolen a march upon England by deputing an embassy to Kabul contrary to her engagements and declarations. England not to be outrun in the race instructed the Government of India to despatch a similar mission to Kabul. But the Amir, evidently won over by Russian intrigue, would not acknowledge the Viceroy's communications, which was provoking and at the same time insulting. Without waiting for a reply the Viceroy ordered the mission to proceed and at Ali Musjid it was arrested in its progress. The commander of the Fortress told the British envoy that if he should advance a step further he must do so at his own risk and peril. The envoy's escort was not sufficiently strong to force its way through the pass and so he had to make a retrogression. The news of this repulse naturally filled the Government here and in England with indignation. Instead of resorting to arms at once Her Majesty's Government instructed the Government of India to send an ultimatum to the Amir, specifying the date the expiration of which would relieve it from the obligations of peace. That date expired and no reply came. The order was therefore at once issued to the troops to proceed and occupy the Amir's territories. A proclamation was issued indicting the Amir before the bar of public opinion for diverse offences, and declaring him an enemy of England, and telling his subjects that if they did not sympathise with or support their chief they will receive every consideration from the British Government. In the meantime England had conducted diplomatic correspondence with Russia about her mission to Kabul. Russia agreed to withdraw her mission and to abstain from all intervention with the affairs of Kabul. Perhaps not a shot was fired by our men till Russia's neutrality was secured. Our troops marched against Affghansthan on the 21st November. Our force has been divided into three columns, *viz.* the Kurrum valley, the Peshwar and the Quetta columns, comprising it is estimated about 35 thousand men. The success of our troops has been almost beyond expectation. It had been thought that the present season was inopportune for a campaign in the valleys of Affghansthan, that our men would find a sterner enemy in the snows of the mountains than the stout-bodied Affghans, and that probably our progress for the present would not be beyond Ali Musjid. But the facts have proved otherwise. It would appear that the Amir had not been at all prepared for war, that he had made no arrangements to cope with our advancing columns, that he had placed too much reliance upon Russian aid. It is this unpreparedness of the Amir, which has facilitated the success of our arms. Our commissariat arrangements as usual have been very defective; more men, it would seem, have been killed or disabled by the inclement weather owing to short supplies than by the enemy; our plan of the campaign has been condemned by European critics on scientific grounds. The information and observation of our commanding officers have not been always correct; already some serious blunders committed by them have transpired; our success at Ali Musjid and Peywar Kotal has been more accidental than otherwise, and yet it cannot be denied our progress has been rapid. The display of our power has struck awe, and our footing, wherever it is established, is firm enough. Affghansthan it would seem is torn by internal dissensions Amir Shere Ali is evidently not popular. His alliance with Russia is looked down upon by his men with suspicion; if the news of his flight from Kabul and the accession of Yakub Khan to the throne be true, a revolution has been effected in Affghansthan, and such a revolution at a time like this cannot but lead to a temporising with our Government. The fate of Amir Shere Ali excites pity. He had recovered the throne of his father by a display of personal bravery, skill and ability, which called forth admiration of even his worst enemies. He was not indebted to the British Government or any other power for aid in the war of succession; single-handed he re-established his authority, peace and tranquility, with complete success. Though unassisted by the British Government he was always friendly to it, and scrupulously held himself aloof from the Muscovite. When Khiva fell he solicited British protection against the Russians, but no response was given to his appeal. He wanted a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance, but our Government gave him gold, guns and ammunitions instead. He indignantly rejected a lac of rupees offered to him, but took away the guns and the amunitions. The cordiality of Lord Mayo had an assuring effect upon his mind, but neither his Lordship nor his successors gave him the coveted word of protection. Disappointed he turned to the Czar, who embraced him cordially. Thus was he alienated from our Government. He cultivated the friendship of the Muscovite, and as he went on in his new passion the distrust of our Government increased, until it culminated in an open declaration of war against the Amir. If our Government had fed him with empty words, the Russians it would seem have treated him with base and open treachery. In all likelihood he would not have perhaps quarrelled with our Government, if he had not been promised help with men and money by the Russian Government. But when the Amir was actually in danger, when the British troops were ravaging his territories, and when his fortresses were falling into their hands one by one, Russia quietly withdrew her mission and left him to his own destiny. Such is the story of the fate of an Asiatic Prince in the hands of two foremost nations of Europe. We cannot dismiss this part of the subject without again recording our satisfaction at the marked demonstrations of Indian loyalty, which the Affghan complications have called forth. Again have the native princes come forward with their contingents and placed them at the service of our Government. The Nizam of Hyderabad, though the Premier Mahomedan Prince of India, took the lead in these demonstrations; the princes of Rajputana and the Punjab have also been equally conspicuous for their loyalty. As Lord Lytton said the other day in addressing the troops of the native princes assembled at Lahore, from the North and the South, from the East and the West, from all sides, have come these pleasing proofs of the loyalty of the native Princes, and Her Majesty the Queen has been formost in making a gracious recognition of it.

LEGISLATION.

The spirit of legislation during the past year was one of retrogression. Whether in anticipation of the threatened Russian war with England in Europe or of apprehended rupture with Affghansthan, or from motives of internal policy, not patent to the outside public, the legislation of the country in certain matters of vital importance to the people took a turn neither in unison with the professed enlightened policy of the Government nor its traditions. The Government of India has been aptly described as despotism tempered with public opinion. It is despotic in form and machinery, but it is enlightened in its spirit and character. It does not, it is true, submit its decrees to a representative assembly, but it does not ignore public opinion. Although its behests are autocratic, still before it sends them forth it takes pains to consult the opinions feelings, sentiments and wishes of the different classes of the community. Above all it generates through the schools and colleges it maintains the intellectual and moral forces which mould public opinion. Forty years ago it conceded to the country that freedom of speech and writing, which is not yet fully realised in some of the advanced countries of Europe, and yet on one day at a single sitting in a packed house, without

any previous notice to the public, without the customary discussion, the Government of India in its legislation department under suspension of the standing orders passed the bill gagging the Vernacular Press of India. What were the reasons for this extraordinary extreme and unexpected step? Was the country in rebellion, was there a foreign invasion knocking at our gates, had the people suddenly become disloyal? In vain did we wade through the orations delivered at this black meeting of the Vice-Regal Council for a satisfactory explanation of this retrograde measure. The new Act was without a parallel in the history of Indian legislation. It not only repressed the liberty of the Vernacular Press but would not even allow a judicial trial to the supposed offender. Even the Gagging Act of Lord Canning, passed as an exceptional measure at an exceptional time, when the foundations of the British Power had been shaken to the centre, did not deprive the culprit of a judicial trial. But Lord Lytton's Act went further; it combined the functions of the complainant and the witness and the judge in the same person. The new law was based on the silly writings of some of the vernacular papers, but our rulers failed to see that the poison carried its own antidote, that braggadoccio was not sedition, that the mass of the population was quite unaffected by the wild rhodomontades of such inconsequential prints, and that the educated natives simply hated them But no opportunity as we have already observed had been afforded to the public for explanation, argument, or remonstrance. Consequently an appeal went to Parliament and as we have noticed above the Great Gladstone took it up. The very intelligence that Mr. Gladstone would present the Calcutta petition to Parliament had a good moral effect upon the Government here. The Act, which had first threatened to be enforced with rigour, was practically allowed to remain a dead letter and has we are glad to say so remained since. The debate in Parliament was unfructuous so far that it did not lead to its immediate repeal, but its moral effects have been highly satisfactory. The new Secretary of State in a periphrastic way condemned the spirit of the Act and ordered an amendment of its provisions on certain points, while in practical operation it has been made innocuous. We hope no occasion will arise for the enforcement of the law. In consonance with the spirit of the Vernacular Press Act was the Arms Act of 1878. The existing law on the subject was rigorous enough, but it made a judicious discrimination between the well-disposed and the evil-disposed, between proclaimed districts and loyal districts, between unruly and peaceful populations. Under the new Act that just and necessary distinction has been swept away. All classes of the community have been reduced to the same level; the blow has been struck alike against the loyal and the disloyal, the whole population of the country has been placed under a general ban. It is true that discretion is vested in the Government to exempt individuals and classes from the operation of the law, but such exemptions or exceptions if we may commit an Irishism will be exceptional. On the other hand security of life and property from the ravages of wild animals in many parts of the country requires the use of arms. The Government publishes annual accounts of the depredations of these animals, and these depredations have been going on notwithstanding the comparative absence of restrictions in past years upon the use of arms. How much more frequent and extensive will be the ravages of the wild beasts under the new law, which clogs the carrying and the use of arms by any man at every step? It is melancholy to observe that while the Government is ready to acknowledge graciously on fitting occasions the conspicuous loyalty of the people of India, it should not hesitate to have recourse to such retrogressive and repressive legislation as the Vernacular Press and the Arms Acts, which indicate the utmost distrust of their loyalty. Well did Sir William Robinson, late member of the Madras Council, in his minute on the Arms Bill say that the policy of these Acts was a libel upon the loyalty of the people of India. The feverish excitement for legislative enactments evinced by the present Law Member received a check during the past year. He projected a scheme of codification, so vast, comprehensive, and complex that it filled the public with alarm. It was felt that the absence of the legal element in the Vice-Regal Legislative Council left the Law Member the lord of all he surveyed. His Excellency the Viceroy perceived the mischievous effects of this state of things, and so he appointed the Advocate General, and Mr. Evans, a leading member of the Calcutta Bar, to be members of the Council, and their presence has already been productive of great good. The Bills, which Mr. Stokes, had projected, were arrested in their progress, the old draft of the Master and Servants Bill has been practically abandoned. The Transfer of Property Bill will not be passed in a hurry. It has been once revised, and is being revised again, and will not probably be passed for twelve months to come. A few taxation and local Bills were passed by the Vice-Regal Council last year. The local Councils were also equally conspicuous for moderation. The famine engrossed the attention of the Madras and Bombay Governments, and so they were less busy in legislation. In Bengal the present Lieutenant Governor has no taste for superfluous legislation. He is quite content with things as they are, and does not want change for the sake of change. The country has long sought for rest from over-active legislation, and if the temper of our rulers continues in its present state it may hope to attain to that rest.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

In consequence of the Famine the finances were in a trying condition last year. It was estimated that the cost of the two famines of 1873-74 and 1877-78 was about 16 millions; the Government therefore considered it necessary to impose fresh taxation in order to make the both ends meet. The object of Government was twofold, 1stly, to restore an equillibrium between income and expenditure, and 2ndly, to provide a Famine Insurance Fund. It is observable that the additional taxation of the previous year had contributed to the restoration of the financial equipoise. If the home military charges of India could be adjusted on an equitable basis, there might be a substantial saving. The Government of India did not deny this position but confessed its helplessness in the matter. It addressed two distinct communications to the Secretary of State on the subject, but as usual without effect Again the matter has been referred to the War Office, but the only outcome of the renewed enquiries and deliberations would probably be a remission of certain claims of the War Office against the India Office calculated on the old principle, amounting to some three lacs of rupees. To return to additional taxation. The object of it, as was set forth in the taxation bills, was to effect a permanent increase of revenue in order to provide means for defraying the public expenditure from time to time incurred and to be incurred for the relief and prevention of famine in British India. But in his concluding speech Sir John Strachey stated that the object was to increase the general revenues of the Government of India for public works and other purposes. He denied that the Government of India had intended to pay the interest for the famine loans from additional taxation, though in announcing the new measures he had adduced the interest on those loans as the chief cause of the deficit that should be met by fresh taxation. Sir John now remarked that that view—the payment of the interest—"the Government of India rejects as quite incompatible with proper financial principles. It is the capital charge that must be paid off—not the interest." But Sir John did not really mean to pay off the capital charge. He proposed to apply the proceeds of the new taxes "to the construction of useful remunerative works of precisely the same description as those on which a far larger sum has hitherto been spent year after year, partly obtained from the general revenues, and partly from borrowed funds." He added, "what the Government desires is to establish a sense of the obligation under which it is placed in respect to the expenditure due to famine, which shall be felt in the same way as the obligation to provide proper courts of justice, police, education and so forth. For none of these objects has it ever entered into the mind of any one to suggest a special allocation of the revenue or a separate fund. Nor can any greater be found for a separate famine fund than for separate funds for any of those other objects, which are obligatory on the Government." Again: "Suppose, for instance, that the produce of the new taxes were by law strictly set apart from the general revenues and paid into a separate fund only to be applied to specified purposes. If then any sudden change of circumstances arise calling for seriously increased expenditure or causing a considerable falling-off in the revenue, we should have to choose between the imposition of fresh taxes and the abrogation of the law contituting the fund; for I set aside the idea of meeting ordinary charges by borrowing as a course financially inadmissible." Compare these words with what he said in announcing his scheme of taxation. "So far as we can now speak for the future, the Government of India intends to keep this million and a half as an insurance against *famine alone*. We consider that the estimates of every year ought to make provision for *religiously applying the sum I have mentioned to this sole purpose*." Mark the bare-faced contradictions in the words of the Finance Minister. But it is idle to dwell upon this point. The proceeds of additional taxation imposed for a Famine Insurance Fund will be absorbed by the Affghan War. Indeed, the improvement in our financial position in consequence of the new taxation has been made by Her Majesty's Government a pretext for saddling India with the cost of the Affghan War. The measures adopted for raising the additional revenue have been most injudicious. A License tax has been imposed upon trades, dealings and industries. It is a rough income tax. It goes down so low as Rs. 100 per annum, and the result is that the pressure falls the heaviest upon the poorer classes. Even the Government organs cannot help condemning this tax. Its working has been attended with great hardship and oppression. In Surat its introduction gave rise to serious riots, which culminated in a scandalous prosecution of certain vernacular editors. In addition to the License Tax the salt duty has been increased about 50 per cent. in Madras and Bombay, though it is admitted that the duty is a great burden upon the poorer classes. But inconsistently enough the salt duty has been lowered throughout the Bengal Presidency resulting in a loss of sixty lacs of rupees per annum. If this duty had not been touched there would have been no necessity for the License tax.

THE FAMINE.

The last year will remain memorable in the history of India as the year which witnessed the restoration of the country from the Famine struggle. The Famine, it would be remembered, embraced four provinces of India, viz. Madras, Mysore, Bombay, and the North West Provinces. The Madras Famine dated from 1876 and lasted till almost the close of 1878. The Mysore Famine dated from the latter end of 1875 and continued till the middle of 1878. The Bombay Famine also commenced in 1876 and terminated in the beginning of 1878. The famine or scarcity in the North Western Provinces was due to an extensive failure of the rains in 1877. The history of the Famine Relief measures of Government is well known. The Government of India had at first under-estimated the danger. As Mr. Digby, the Historian of the Famine Campaign in Southern India, says that it would appear as if the supreme authorities had argued in this wise: 'What need to prepare for great disasters. when we find that cry of "Wolf" has repeatedly been raised, when comparatively little or no danger existed?' There was no wilful desire to ignore real distress, but a conviction that those on the spot, where distress had manifested itself, would be, or were desirous of magnifying the disaster with which they might have to deal. Thus the Goverment of India persisted in its scepticism till the stern reality forced itself upon it with all its horrors. The Government of India even then, instead of taking the local Government into confidence, deputed a Delegate in the person of Sir Richard Temple, whose presence had a chilling effect. Mr. Digby remarks that "the delegate's energy was praiseworthy, his intentions admirable, but his performances occasionally otherwise. It was impossible, in the hurried visits his Excellency made to districts

and in his conversations with officals, for him to adequately grasp the real facts of the situation It will be seen that the statements in the delegate's depatches are not borne out by independent observations and that the death-rate contradicts the *couleur-de-rose* view which he took. It does not seem unfair to the Delegate, judging him from his minutes, to assume that he went to Madras with the preconceived idea that the calamity had been exaggerated, that it was being inadequately met, and that, therefore, facts were, unconsciously may be, squared with this theory."

In February 1877, the district of Mysore was visited by Sir R. Temple, who then thought that the system of the administration of famine relief was satisfactory; and again in April last, five months afterwards, the Viceroy visited the district, and in a letter (dated September) to the Secretary of State, he gave a totally different account, and stated that everything was in confusion, that the system of relief was being badly administered and a dreadful amount of starvation was the consequence. The most horrifying accounts had reached him and amongst them one to the effect that in one district in Mysore at least a third of the population had disappeared and that the highways and fields in Mysore were literally full of bones. The conclusion he drew was that the whole system of famine relief should be reorganised. But Sir Richard Temple was not to blame. It was well remarked in the House of Lords, "what the Government seemed to have thought was that it was not wise to hamper the future resources of India to such an extent as would be absolutely necessary if the same system were pursued." This was the root of the mistakes, which marked the famine policy of the Government, for which Sir John Strachey was mainly responsible. It is of course doubtful whether any oriental Government could have met the famine so successfully as the British Government did, but on the principle that to whom much is given, from him much is expected, we judge the measures of our Government. The mortality from the famine has been very severe. We have no means of knowing the correct number of deaths. On an average the mortality did not exceed 25 per cent and did not come below 10 per cent. His Excellency the Viceroy in reviewing the mortality returns remarked as follows:

"His Excellency the Governor General in Council deduces from the figures now reviewed that there has been a lamentable decrease of the population during the two past seasons, in the selected famine-stricken tracts where the partial census has recently been taken. But there is still much uncertainty as to the numbers who have migrated, and who may return to their homes The figures for the several talooks, both in the Bombay and in the Madras presidency, show remarkable differences between the percentages of apparent loss of population; and it is not possible to say over what proportion of the famine country the higher, the medium, or the lower percentages of decrease in the population extend. His Excellency the Viceroy in Council considers therefore that the papers now before the Government of India do not furnish means for forming a correct estimate of the famine mortality in Southern India during the year 1877-78."

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the province of Mysore. In the North Western Provinces the local Government had totally ignored distress in consequence of a widely prevalent scarcity, and were it not for the praiseworthy and persistent efforts of our contemporary the *Statesman* the public would have never known the real truth. The relief measures were very inadequate; the instructions of Government contradictory; profession and practice did not agree; and the result was that the poorer sufferers were left to die like rotten sheep. Nothing could be more reprehensible than the conduct of the local Government in this crisis. It attracted the attention of England, but who is there to enforce responsibility? Sir Cecil Beadon was sacrificed for the blunders of his subordinates in the Orissa Famine of 1866, but Sir George Couper flourishes. Notwithstanding all the shortcomings of famine relief measures we cannot but gratefully acknowledge that the effects of the Famine would have been much more disastrous, if Providence had not placed the country in the hands of the English. The power of organization, the promptitude of action, and the care generally evinced by our rulers could not have been commanded by any oriental Government. The honor of recognizing the obligation of the State to save the lives of the people at a time of such a providential calamity belongs to Lord Northbrook, and Lord Lytton, though late, followed the noble example of his predecessor in right earnest. The Famines of 1874 and 1877 have demonstrated one grand fact—there is food enough in the country to meet a dearth in particular localities; if there be facilities of communication, and the people have means to purchase food, there need be no death from scarcity and starvation. Facilities of communication are rapidly increasing, but we cannot say that the means of the people are keeping pace with them. The whole subject of future famine administration has been referred to a Commission presided over by General Strachey.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The course of general administration during the last year was as usual one of routine. The Famine engrossed the attention of the Government of India at the beginning of the year, and the Affghan question occupied it at the latter end of it. In the middle of the year its attention was diverted by the despatch of Sepoys to Malta. The present cabinet system of administration has greatly relieved the head of the Government of much detailed work. Each Member is in charge of a Department, and all matters relating to it, except those involving general principles, are disposed of by him. During the year one member of the Government of India, Sir Edward Clive Bayley, retired. He was an erudite scholar and an accomplished gentleman, but a most narrow-minded Indian politician. He was succeeded by Mr. Rivers Thompson, Chief Commissioner of British Burma. Mr. Thompson is a decided improvement upon Sir Edward Bayley. He is possessed of liberal ideas, a large heart, and generous sympathies; his accession to the Supreme Council is a matter of congratulation. It is only to be regretted that his usefulness has been somewhat clogged by his being placed in charge of that etcetra and do-nothing Department—the Agricultural Department. The decentralization of finance has led to a transfer to the local Governments of most of the details of administration, and the attention of the Government of India is therefore chiefly confined to questions of principle. But in the present state of communications between England and India the Government of India is practically carried on from England through wires. Not an important question is decided by the Government of India without previous communication with the Secretary of State by telegraph. During the last year the relations of the Government of India with the Native States were generally of a pacific character; there were, however, some passages at arms with the Nizam of Hyderabad in consequence of the appointment of an English expert as Private Secretary of the Minister, Sir Salar Jung. The long-standing grievance of His Highness the Holkar was redressed by the cession of certain tracts of land as a reward for his services during the Mutiny. The Salt convention was concluded with the Rajputana States. The Native Princes gave two notable proofs of their fidelity to the Paramount Power by placing their troops at its disposal for the Russian war and the Affghan War. The Government has seen what useful auxiliaries the armies of the Native states are, and yet it is said that it proposes to call upon the Native chiefs to disband their troops. We hope the recent events will convince the Government of India of the injustice and impolicy of the proposed measure. The current of administration in the several local Governments during the past year went on smoothly enough. His Grace the Duke of Buckingham is administering the affairs of the Madras Presidency with a spirit of independence, liberality, and even-handed justice, which have justly won him the respect and esteem of our countrymen in Southern India. Sir Richard Temple is gradually settling down in Bombay. After the Surat scandals he is now looking about himself. He is taking steps for the advancement of the prospects of the educated natives, which we doubt not will tend to a better appreciation of his motives and policy. We have already alluded

to the break-down in famine administration in the North Western Provinces. In other matters Sir George Couper has not been more successful. He seems to be a civilian of civilians, illiberal, unsympathetic, unprogressive, and close. He is no friend to liberal education; he wishes to keep the natives on a dead level; he does not sympathize with the officers, who cherish broad views. Mr Egerton, Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, though a far better man than Sir George Couper, is a routine man. He shewed his narrow-mindedness in dealing with the proposal of the Punjab Anjuman for an educational congress. Mr. Morris is a steady, hard-working man. The Central Provinces are fairly progressing under his judicious administration. Mr. Aitchison has succeeded Mr. Rivers Thompson as Chief Commissioner of British Burma. He is a man of sterling ability, thorough knowledge, large views and estimable character. He has commenced his work in right earnest, and infused much of his spirit into his subordinates. Col. Keatinge, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has taken furlough and has been succeeded by Sir Stuart Bayley. Col. Keatinge's administration of Assam was a failure, but hope has revived on the accession of Sir Stuart Bayley. Sir Stuart is a man of great experience and thorough business habits, and much is expected from him. To him has been assigned the question of the proposed restoration of Assam to Bengal. That question hinges upon financial considerations. If the Government of India will make the necessary assignment of revenue for improvements, Assam will progress. But we for one do not think that Assam requires a separate administration. It has so much in common with Bengal that its separation from it is unnatural. The province of Mysore is on the eve of a revolution. It is about to be restored to its rightful owner, the Maharaja, and Mr. Gordon, the now Chief Commissioner, was after the termination of the Famine engaged in reorganizing the administration with a view to the restoration of the Native Government. The present position of finance in Mysore requires the enforcement of rigid economy, and Mr. Gordon is making retrenchments with the double object of reducing expenditure and introducing more extensively the native agency. Last, though not the least, is Bengal in the chain of local Governments. In extent of territory, population, wealth, intelligence, and public spirit Bengal occupies the foremost place among the Indian satrapies, and is at present in charge of a Governor, who is not surpassed in intelligence, ability, devotion to duty, and high-mindedness by any other Indian Governor. Sir Ashley Eden is not new to Bengal. He took his start in official life in this province, and from the commencement evinced a generous and warm sympathy for the people. His sterling merits early attracted the attention of his official superiors, and his promotion has been rapid. A more single-minded friend of the people of this country there has not been than Sir Asbley Eden, and although during his two years' rule he has given utterance to opinions on certain matters, not quite in unison with the cherished traditions of the people, his worst enemy cannot deny that he continues a staunch friend to the cause of Indian advancement. Sir Ashley is an out-spoken man; he means what he says, and says what he means; he never minces matters; his extreme frankness has sometimes given rise to hostile criticisms, but his influence on the course of administration has been highly beneficial. He is firm, and his firmness is a terror to his subordinates. He is even-handed in doling out praise and censure to his officers, European and Native. In the dispensation of patronage he fosters merit. He is a warm friend to the cause of native advancement. He has appointed the first Native Civilian under the nomination system, and the first Native Sessions Judge. He has restored the Calcutta Police Bench to the Native, and given the Coronership to the Native Magistrate of the Town, an appointment never before conferred upon a Native. He has created a new grade of Munsiffs with a view to open a new outlet to educated natives. He has also proposed a scheme of appellate benches, which will afford a wider sphere of usefulness to meritorious judicial officers and pleaders. For the first time he has

conferred the appointment of Government Translator upon a Native scholar. He has also taken steps to improve the prospects of the subordinate education service. If Sir Ashley had not placed himself in antagonism with educated opinion by supporting the Vernacular Press Act and denouncing the elective system, even his worst enemy could not have carped at his policy, measures and character, but we feel convinced that as the fruits of solid progress, which the country is making under his wise and vigorous rule, are realized, the character of his administration will be appreciated at its true value.

CALCUTTA.

The last year was a crisis in the history of the Municipal administration of Calcutta. The elective system was inaugurated under by no means propitious circumstances. Its author left this province immediately after its introduction. The late driver of the Municipal coach, who, whatever his shortcomings, had an unfailing eye and a steady hand, took leave for good. The charge was left to an officer, who notwithstanding his good intentions, was not the man for Galway. He worked hard, but to no purpose. His administration was a synonym for reckless extravagance, unauthorized expenditure, debt and deficit. There was a disorder and disorganization everywhere under his rule. The colletions were heavily in arrear, the accounts in disorder, work multiplied tenfold, but there was no despatch, no efficiency. The Commissioners were powerless in controlling him, for they could not control office details, and then the Chairman was not responsible to them for the tenure of his office. The Government at last perceived the mischievous effects of Mr. Metcalfe's administration, and when Sir Stuart Hogg formally resigned, the Lieutenant Governor refused to confirm him. His Honor has appointed Mr. Souttar, Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs, Chairman of the Corporation. Mr. Souttar has begun well, and given much promise of future excellence. The Port Commission of Calcutta is working satisfactorily. It has achieved great success, though we cannot deny that the close borough system it follows does not enable the public to know its internal working. The public bodies of Calcutta shewed much vitality during the year. The Chamber of Commerce did not, however, show as much activity as the Trades' Association. The British Indian Association was distinguished by the same intelligent activity that has characterized its operations for the last quarter of a century. It has found an active and useful auxiliary in the Indian Association, which is composed of some of our best educated young men. Several public meetings were held in Calcutta during the past year under the auspices of the British Indian Association and the Indian Association connected with the Famine, Finance and Taxation and the Vernacular Press Act.

COMMERCIAL, MATERIAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL, AND MORAL.

During the past year commerce suffered great depression. What with the Russo-Turkish war, the exchange difficulty, over-trading, failure of banks and mercantile firms, commerce sustained heavy blows both in the United Kingdom and in India. Capitalists could not find a remunerative employment for their money, which was consequently cheap. On the other hand the trade in food-grains was very brisk. The demand for rice in the famine-stricken districts gave an unusual impetus to the rice trade of Bengal. The result was an immense rise in the price of rice, which trenched upon the very means of subsistence of the people of this province. But under the blessings of Providence they have tided over the difficulty, and as the land has been blessed with abundant crops this year, we hope there will be a steady fall, though we as yet see no sufficient sign of it. The last year witnessed several measures taken for the advancement of material progress. The Northern Bengal State Railway has been opened. The Gya Railway has been taken in hand. Surveys have been ordered for the Mymensing, Jessore and Diamond Harbour Railways. The Dancuni Canal is now a *fait accompli*. The Sone works were in good progress New arrangements have been made for the working of the Orissa Canals. Some new canals have been projected, such as the Orissa Coast Canal, and Jujuthi Canal of Hooghly. The tide of intellectual progress has gone on unchecked. The Vernacular Press Act has not, we are happy to observe, obstructed literary activity, simply because the Government has had the good sense not to enforce it rigorously. In connection with this subject we notice with satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Roper Lethbridge as Press Commissioner. It is a move in the right direction. Authorship in Bengal has risen to the dignity of a profession. There are many persons, who now literally live upon the fruits of their intellectual labor. Education is making steady progress. The cause of primary education has found a warm advocate in the present Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Schools, libraries, theatres, and newspapers have become the order of the day in the Mofussil. There are signs of life and vitality throughout the country. The advocates of female education had good reasons to be satisfied with the progess made in this direction during the year. The Bengal Branch of the National Indian Association, founded by Miss Carpenter, under the guidance of Mrs. Knight, is doing good and useful work. It has justly made secular education the basis of instruction, appointed a Committee for the preparation of good text-books for Hindu ladies, and offered the services of zenana teachers at reasonable rates. The Inspectress of schools appointed by Sir Richard Temple has done a great public service by laying bare the defects of the zenana system of education carried on by the missionary societies. We hope her criticisms will bear the desired fruit. In social matters Munshee Pearylal's scheme of reduction of marriage expenses, we are glad to observe, is receiving extended favour. In Bengal some spasmodic attempts are made now and then for reform in this direction, but they have not been of an abiding nature. On the other hand a proposal has been made by Mr. Garrett to put down early marriage through the agency of the University. However much the consummation might be wished for, to convert the University into an engine of high-pressure for social reform would be to put the saddle on the wrong horse. It is, however, gratifying to observe that our young men in the schools and colleges have set their faces against the custom of early marriage; they held a public meeting, and signed a pledge declaring that they shall not countenance early betrothal. Although they are not independent in matters of this kind, still their voice, if they persevere, is sure to prevail in the end. Our young men are also shewing a commendable love of physical training. The desire for scientific and technical education is also extending. Dr. Sircar's Science Association is fairly maintaining its ground. The Government proposes to establish a technical college for professional education of our young men. In religion the last year, we are sorry to note, witnessed a schism among the progressive Brahmos. The marriage of Babu Keshub Chunder Sen's daughter with the Rajah of Kuch Behar proved an apple of discord. Some of the best educated and influential members of the Brahma Sumaj of India separated from it. However much we may regret the separation, it has been followed by some good results. It has given birth to two new periodicals, one in English and the other in Bengali, and imparted increased life to Brahmoism. On the whole the last year was marked by fair intellectual and moral progress.

OBITUARY.

Death was unusually busy both among the high and low during the year. The Roman Church lost its sovereign Pontiff, Italy her popular King, Victor Emanuel, and our Queen-Mother her beloved daughter Princess Alice. Famine and fever decimated India. How many millions have fallen victims of the great scourge, famine, it is impossible for us to say; the death-roll from fever has been also heavy. Amongst distinguished Indians Sir Cowasji Jehangir Ready-Money of Bombay and Raja Dukhinarunjun Mookerjea of Bengal, but late of Oudh, paid the debt of nature. The Nestor of the Bengal Pundits, Pundit Bharutchunder Seromoni, was also carried away at the close of the year.

CONCLUSION.

We have endeavoured to take a brief and hurried review of the principal events of the past year. It is necessarily defective, for we have neither time nor space for an elaborate and complete record of the year. Such a record would fill volumes. Suffice to say that the recollections of 1878 are not likely to pass away soon. We hope the New Year will bring peace, plenty, and prosperity to the land. To our friends, constituents, readers, supporters, and well-wishers, and the public in general we wish a HAPPY—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE WAR.

LAST week we had not much intelligence from the seat of war. The troops are concentrating upon Kandhahar. According to one account our men are within twenty-five miles of the city. It was stated that the Affghans had mustered strong in Kandhahar and intended to give a pitched battle to our troops there. But later reports state that the massing of Affghan troops at Kandhahar is a myth. No authentic news has been received of the movements of Yakub Khan. There seems to be no doubt that Amir Shere Ali has quitted his capital. It now appears that he has gone with the Russian Mission to St. Petersburgh. Although the Affghans do not seem to be prepared for a regular warfare, they are giving our troops trouble by occasional raids. Here and there coolies are killed, soldiers are attacked, goods are stolen, and communications cut off. We are afraid that this sort of trouble will not end till the country is thoroughly subjugated.

A Proclamation of the Amir has been published, issued about the end of October, preaching a Jehad against our Government. It is full of quotations from the Koran. It thus begins:

Officers, soldiers, public servants, people and friends of Affghanistan proper! Know that men embark themselves on an undertaking with an object in view, and with the hope of accomplishing it, spend thousands in money and waste all the bodily energies that God often grants to them, and they reap the benefit thereof. In like manner the Koran was sent to the first and most approved of Prophets. May peace and salutations be upon him as a reward for the trouble and exertions he had undertaken in its cause, for turning his back of wordly possessions, for observing poverty and fast, and for undertaking the sufferings and toils of a *jehad*, as if he were partaking of the most delicious beverage, until he was exalted with the noble title of O you faithful believers! O you that repent! God has hastened to send down to you the Koran to remove your sins, and to grant you forgiveness: To God be the highest glory.

The Proclamation then goes on:

You ought to know well that the leader of our faithful (Amir Shere Ali Khan) has never without a cause attacked a tribe, while a foreign nation, without the slightest provocation, has laid the hand of oppression upon our honour, and has made up its mind to invade our country and to conquer it. Should this happen, where will be the commands of God to his people and the boast and pride of the Affghans? It is also necessary that you should remember that the Amir has spared his precious person no pains, and has cheerfully undergone much labour in protecting your rights, your persons and your property, and in not tolerating foreign interference. He has also made great sacrifices of property for your sake. If it were otherwise you would say: Ruling Kings nowhere experience trouble or toil. A due sense of honour and shame ought to influence mankind at all times! When our *ruler* has cheerfully undertaken the protection of his subjects, after such toils and hardships it would be a thousand pities that we should be unmindful of the honour and interests of our master, and of the command of God and His prophet, and shrink back from the worthless infidel in the hope of living a few days longer.

The following exhortation is addressed to the Affghans:

In short, since death is pre-ordained why should we run away in war, for the Creator has said in the Koran. Those amongst you who are strong in faith when the infidels close upon you in battle in greater numbers than your own you ought not to turn your backs upon them. And he who will turn except it be for the purposes of the combat will incur the wrath of God and be committed to hell fire.

There is not the slightest doubt that if you officers soldiers and people of Affghanistan were to act up to the teachings of the Koran you would be honoured both in this world and in the next and would blunt the greedy teeth of the infidels with regard to invading our country.

This our admonition is necessary as they on their side are ready.

They also (meaning the English) are possessed of wives and of children, though they do not share in future rewards. They are not afraid! Why should we be? We, who are promised future rewards by God who have to defend the honour of our religion who if we get killed will be admitted into Paradise and if we are spared will be honoured and exalted in this world.

It will be a matter of great regret for us were we to be deprived of all these worldly benefits and the promise of future rewards without making a stubborn resistance.

But the Proclamation it would seem has fallen flat upon the people of Affghanistan. They have given little response to the appeal.

The Amir it appears has made a diplomatic move by flying from Kabul to St. Petersburgh. He has not abdicated his throne but gone to Europe to appeal to the Great Powers against the conduct of the British Government. We believe that the Amir would not have taken this extraordinary step, if he had not been advised by the Russian Embassy to do so. But what has Europe to do with Asia? For our part we think it would be a great advantage if Asia could be brought within the arena of international politics. We have always advocated this course. We hold that the best guarantee of peace between Russia and England in Asia would be an arbitrement by the Great Powers of Europe. But will the nations of Europe consent to it? The Berlin Congress took no notice of the convention which England entered into with Turkey for the better administration of Asia Minor. We do not know what the object of Russia is in inviting the Amir to St. Petersburgh, but if she has taken this step after consulting the Great Powers of Europe in the matter, we wish her success. Peaceful arbitration is always preferable to an appeal to arms.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

IN announcing the publication of volumes VII. and VIII. of the "Archæological Survey Reports" it would not be amiss to enquire what has been hitherto achieved by the Department under which they have been issued. The Survey was first established in 1861 under a resolution of the late Lord Canning, and continued in full operation till 1865, when the retirement of Major-General Cunningham, the Surveyor, from India, brought it to a close. Four reports were submitted during the period, two of which were published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and the other two printed and circulated for official use. The Department was re-opened in 1871, with the Major-General as Surveyor, Messrs. Beglar and Carllyele as lieutenants, and a large staff of assistants, costing altogether about sixty thousand rupees per year. It has now been in active work for eight years, and the time has come when its operations may be reviewed to advantage. The review has become the more necessary as serious complaints have been made in England of its want of activity, and, in reply to a despatch from the Secretary of State for India, the Superintendent of the Survey has put forth a Memo. in vindication of his department. The Memo. has been divided into three parts, showing in detail the works done by the Superintendent and his two assistants.

Altogether the Department has published 9 volumes,—8 of Reports and 1 of a collection of Asoka inscriptions—the Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum. Of these nine volumes Vols. I. and II. are reprints of the reports of 1861-65, and may be left out of consideration. The actual results of the last eight years works are, therefore, comprised in 7 vols. of which 3 are due to Major General Cunningham, 2 to Mr. Beglar 1 to Mr. Carllyele and 1 to Messrs. Carllyele and Beglar jointly. The 7 volumes represent an expenditure of Rs. 60,000×8= Rs. 4,80,000 or Rs.68,571 per volume. This, to say the least, is rather dear. The Sibyl, when she first presented her mysterious 9 volumes, big with the fate of Rome, to Tarquin the Proud, asked something like a lac of rupees for them, and the price was deemed excessive. After she had burnt six of them, the price remained the same i. e. say a lac for three volumes or Rs. 33,000 per volume. Compared to them our "Archæological Survey Reports" are two-fold dearer. Doubtless much may be said of the labour undergone in travelling over vast tracts of country in search of information; but in that respect modern travellers in Central Africa undergo considerable deal more of trouble and labour, and their works do not, as a rule, command any thing like Rs. 68,000 per volume. Nor are the contents of the books of such a character as to make amends for their want of bulk. Of the three volumes due to the pen of Major-General Cunningham, the volume of inscriptions is made up entirely of reprints of the Asoka inscriptions first deciphered by James Prinsep as a labour of love, and furnished with extracts from the works of Wilson, Burnouf, Kern and Buhler. The volume comprises 141 pages of which about 50 are devoted to original matter. Volumes III and V of the Reports, also from the pen of the learned General, comprise 369 pages describing the antiquities of 57 different places. These figures give 6½ pages to each locality. This average, however, is, as averages often are, very misleading. The learned author has entered into considerable detail regarding some places, and passed over others with the most cursory notice. This would no doubt be the right course to follow in a traveller's book designed for general readers; but it is very unsatisfactory in a record designed expressly for antiquarians, and as a monument intended to rescue from oblivion the memory of the past, as Lord Canning originally designed the reports to be. Financially the case appears even more unsatisfactory. The last volume is dated 1877, and as far as the public is concerned the three volumes represent General Cunningham's labours for 8 years which, at Rs. 24,000 a year, amount to Rs. 1,92,000. If we add the travelling and printing charges we may safely set down the total for the three volumes at two lacs and 50 thousand. For 369 octavo pages of original matter in large type and a volume of reprints few will deny this cost to be excessive. To apportion the amount we may set down the two lacs for the two volumes, and Rs. 50,000 for the volume of reprint. It is true that there is a volume of MS. matter in the archives of the Home Office, which has been written within the period under notice; but as it has not yet been published, and will no doubt be included among the works of the year in which it will be published, it cannot be taken into account now. The growth of that volume as described in General Cunningham's memo. affords an interesting insight into the manner in which work is done in the Department. The practice of the Department is to devote six months of the Autumn and Winter and Spring to travelling, and the six hot months to writing up the report of the previous six months' work. According to this rule General Cunningham devoted the recess of 1874, *i. e.* six months, to writing a report of his discoveries of Bharut. The work, however, did not prove satisfactory; so in the recess of 1875 he tore up the first report, and wrote a new one, or to use his own words, "rewrote the whole account of the Bharut stupa." The second version, however, proved as unsatisfactory as the first; and the 6 months of the recess of 1876 had to be devoted to a second "rewriting," and in 1877 this third edition had to be revised and extended before it could be submitted to Government. We are informed that this four half-years' labour will be represented by an octavo Vol. of 250 pages. We hope, however, that it will be worthy of the labour and money devoted to it, and most welcome to antiquarians when published.

Next to the Superintendent Mr. Beglar has been the most energetic, and the result of his 8 years' labours is represented by 91 pages of the fourth volume of the Reports, and volumes VII. and VIII., together comprising 415 pages. The first 90 pages are devoted to a rechauffe of what had been written by General Canningham and others on the antiquities of Delhi, and the 2 volumes to notices of 198 different sites of ancient remains; the average being a fraction over 2 pages to each locality. How far these notes will meet the requirements of antiquarians, not being ourselves antiquarians, we cannot make out, but we have a notion that Murray's 'Tourist's Guides' are considerably fuller. For instance of the antiquities of the Hughli district, to which we turned with some interest, we found in Vol. VIII. barely 12 lines and a quarter, and they informed us that something on the subject might be found in some unnamed volume of the Journal of the Asiatic Society. The public has surely a right to expect from a highly paid officer employed by Government for the express purpose of collecting detailed descriptions of the archæological remains of ancient India, something more respectable and useful than such scraps from a tourist's note-book: indeed many tourists afford much more valuable archæological information than what is to be found in these costly volumes.

The result of the eight years' labour of the second assistant, Mr. Carllyele, is comprised in a volume (VI) of 256 pages devoted to 23 places of note in Rajputana and 139 pages in Vol. IV. on the antiquities of Agra and its neighbourhood. Vol. VI. is said to comprise the reports of 1871-2 and 1872-3, but it was not issued until a few months ago, and consequently it took five years in writing and printing. This protracted gestation must imply something valuable; but as Mr. Carllyele is no Heber, it is not at all likely that his writings will supercede the descriptions of the Taj and other places noticed by that good Bishop, of which Mr. Carllyele gives second versions. Government must have some occult reason to pay heavily for such *indigesta moles* of antiquarian shreds and patches; but we fail to perceive it, unless it be to collect the names of all places where ancient remains are to be found, in order to inform future enquirers where to look for subjects worthy of examination. If this be the object we cannot help thinking rupees 50 to 60 thousand a year rather a dear price to pay in these hard times.

AGRICULTURE AS A PROFESSION.

WE all deplore the absence of suitable avenues for the employment of educated natives in these days of hard competition. All the professions are more or less blocked. The bar is overcrowded; the medical profession is equally full; the engineering profession has not a sufficient scope. Manufacturing industry is also limited. But the resources of India are boundless. Confining our view to Bengal, its wealth chiefly consists in its agricultural produce. The fields of Bengal are a vast and inexhaustible mine of wealth, which requires careful, intelligent and thrifty operations to make it yield its resources. It cannot be denied that those who labour on this mine thoroughly understand their work. But science has made wondrous changes. It has spread fertility over sterile soil, immensely increased the productiveness of land already productive, and greatly economized human and animal labor. Unfortunately our agriculturists from their ignorance have not been able to take due advantage of the progress of science. Why should not our educated natives turn their attention to agriculture in the light of Modern Science? We have no gentlemen farmers and agriculturists in this country. We have among educated natives barristers, attorneys, pleaders, doctors, engineers, professors, and school-masters, merchants, tradesmen, bankers, and the like, but no gentlemen agriculturists, except here and there a few indigo and tea planters. There is much elbowing and jostling in all these professions and trades, and a daily increase of the crowd of competitors leads to perpetual treading on each other's heels, but all this is borne without any attempt being made to seek relief in new fields and new channels. It will no doubt seem strange to a foreigner that in a purely agricultural country like Bengal so few of its educated inhabitants should betake themselves to agriculture as a means of subsistence and a source of wealth. Except in Indigo and Tea and in the manufacture of gunnies and gunny bags we miss sadly the absence of educated intelligence and enterprising capital in the employment and direction of labour. But even in the abovementioned branches of industry the best part of the skill, intelligence and capital belong to foreigners. We read that in the year 1877-78 the value of Bengal produce, which passed to the great marts of consumption and the ports of export, aggregated upwards of 23 crores of rupees, and the staples they represented were food-grains, jute and its manufactures, oil-seeds, indigo, tea, silk, raw cotton and saltpetre; and all these, except the articles we have mentioned, were raised by rude unskilled labour of ignorant and helpless peasants, who labor under the serious disadvantage of chronic poverty and work with borrowed capital not unfrequently at cent per cent. interest. It is a common belief that Indian agriculture is not susceptible of improvement, but it is forgotten that within the last half century it has made rapid strides. Two most important staples, *viz.*, jute and tea, have taken a strong hold upon the country. Then in places where only rice was formerly grown, pulses, seeds, potatoes and

other products have sprung up. The question whether by rotation of crops and improved methods of cultivation the resources of the soil could not be better developed. We do not think that large capital is required for effecting the desired improvement. If educated men, who would pine away on Rs.40 or Rs. 50 a month, would have recourse to agricultural occupation by cultivating under their own superintendence small patches of land, they would not only live comfortably but independently. It may be said that the cultivated area of Bengal is already in the hands of cultivators, who will not willingly part with their lands. But this is not strictly correct. In almost all districts there are large tracts of land covered with jungle, and which may with great advantage be converted into culturable fields. For instance the Sunderbuns may support the whole body of educated natives in quest of employ. If individually they cannot command capital for the clearance of the jungle they can combine, and in the form of co-operative societies take each a sufficient plot of ground for reclamation and cultivation. During the late holidays we were on Saugor Island and saw large tracts of fertile lands covered with jungle for want of labor. If a band of educated natives would unite and import labour as tea planters have done they might make fortunes. But our countrymen cannot hope to accomplish this devoutly to-be-wished-for consummation unless they have enterprize and energy. They must learn the dignity of labour and acquire the boldness of enterprize. If they want place and power and patronage the world is not wide for them all. Place and power are not easy of attainment, and where they may be had, they are to be had not without great sacrifice. The amount of knee-bowing and humble pie-eating which one must submit to in securing a very humble place is a heavy price to pay which no remuneration in our opinion can compensate. Our countrymen ought to remember that any condition of life is preferable to abject servility, to the risk and peril of official intrigue and machination, that digging, delving, and even sweeping cannot be more degrading than being an humble supplicant before arrogance, power and stupid conceit. They cannot seek better models for imitation than the petty Marwari and Guzerati itinerant tradesmen, beginning life without a broken shell in their pockets, and not unfrequently ending their career with princely fortunes. Even in those hawking pedlars with a load on their backs we see unmistakeable signs of health and life, which any place-man might well envy. Education ought to teach people to chalk out new grooves for themselves and not walk in beaten tracks. One great source of self-respect is personal independence, and personal independence cannot be secured without self-reliance.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to an advertisement of the Fine Arts Exhibition published in another column. Tickets may be had at the premises and also at this office.

NONE of the morning papers has mentioned that at the last meeting of the Calcutta Corporation it was resolved to send an address of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India in consequence of the demise of Princess Alice. The public bodies of Calcutta will be invited to join the address on behalf of the several classes of the metropolitan community.

A TELEGRAM dated Kohat 1st January states that Alikhel and Akkhel Jirgas have come in on 31st ultimo to Gandur, paid fine for wire cutting, given securities for future good behaviour and settled all outstanding cases. Alikhel further promised to return snider rifle ammunition etcetra carried off by deserters belonging to the tribe from 5th Punjab Infantry. The latter regiment halted at Gandur *en route* for Kohat with guns captured at Peiwar.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has asked the Goevrnment of India to inform the British Indian Association at Calcutta in reply to their memorial praying that the maximum of age for candidates for the Civil Service may be raised instead of lowered, and that the examination of candidates may be held in India that he cannot accede to their wishes. We hope the reasons of the Secretary of State will be made public.

WE HEAR that Mr. Roper Lethbridge, Press Commissioner with the Government of India, is about to take furlough to Europe. Mr. C. E. Buckland C S. at present acting Under-Secretary in the Home Department, will officiate as Press Commissioner during Mr. Lethbridge's absence.

THE REPORTS on the working of the Police on the Bombay, Baroda, and Central Indian Railways and of the Police on the G. I. P. Railway for last year, which was lately forwarded to the Secretary of State, present a marked contrast. The working of the police on the former line is pronounced, on the whole, very satisfactory ; while that on the latter is regarded as very unsatisfactory. The frequent robberies, which occurred on the G. I. P. Railway were made the subject of careful inquiry by a Special Committee, the result being the disclosure of a most nefarious system of robbery, which had involved the company in a very large expenditure for the settlement of claims preferred. For participation in these robberies 1750 persons were convicted, and punished, of whom 306 were railway servants. It is, however, satisfactory to observe that the robberies which were most rife during the unprecedented strain upon the railway establishments by the famine have now entirely ceased. Referring to the labors of the Special Committee appointed by H. E. the Governor of Bombay, to enquire into and report on the whole subject the Secretary of State concludes a Despatch to that Government in the following words :—"The Committee has been entrusted with a most difficult and important inquiry which has demanded the exercise of great patience and vigour. Of course in the discharge of so delicate a duty errors may have been committed, but I consider Mr. Crawford,—the President of the Committee,—and his colleagues to be entitled to warm commendation for the determination and ability with which they have conduteed a very invidious investigation."

A REPORT has been received of a journey by Mr. Baber in the north-west of the Chinese Province of Szu-chuen. The original intention was to examine, between Su-chow and Kiating, the river Tatu, which falls into the Yangtze-Kiang, and then to cross the mountains from Kiating to Fu-lin in long 103°. At Fu-lin, however, Mr. Baber was induced to extend his excursion into the country further west, and he travelled onwards to a place called Tzu-tati, the head-quarters of a Sifan chief. Here he heard of the existence of a mountain path to Tu-chun-lu, the French Missionary station lying nearest to Tibet. After travelling three days through pine forest the mountain range was crossed by a snowy pass, and on the northern slope Yaks were found grazing and many slates inscribed with Sanskrit characters were noticed. The appearance and language of the people also pointed to the fact that though Tibet proper is many hundred miles west of this point yet tribes of the Tibetan race and language extend up to the banks of the Tatu River. This confirms the views already expressed by Mr. T. T. Cooper and other travellers.

THE FAMINE COMMISSIONERS, Messrs. Cunningham, Caird, Peile, and Elliott, and not Mr. Cunningham alone, as stated by a contemporary, visited Dacca and made local enquiries into the condition of the ryots. On return they stayed in Calcutta for a few days, and examined some European and Native gentlemen of experience. On Thursday last they left Calcutta for Coconada, from whence they will visit the Godavari district, returning to Masulipatam, and going thence to Madras, where they will probably be joined by General Strachey towards the end of the month. They will probably make their report in April next.

HER MAJESTY the Queen and Empress of India has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned persons, who by their services have merited the Royal favour, to be Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire :

1. Allen, George W., Esq., of Allahabad.
2. Bymanji Jamasji, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts
3. Digby, William, Esq., late Secretary to the Madras Famine Relief Fund.
4. Grows, Fredrick Salmon, Esq., M.A. Bengal Civil Service. Magistrate and Collector of Bulandshahr, North-West Provinces.
5. Honorary Major Sheikh Hidayat Ali, 45th Native Infantry. Khan Bahadur, Sirdar Bahadur, Aide de-Camp to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India.
6. Impey, Lieutant-Colonel Eugene Clutterbuck, Bengal Staff Corps. Resident, 3rd Class, Political Department.
7. Jones, Lieutenant-Colonel Lestock Boileau, Bengal Staff Corps. Commandant, 3rd Punjab Cavalry.
8. Babu Khem Singh, Rais and Landholder of Montgomery, in the Panjab.
9. Ludlow, Captain Edward Samuel, Madras Staff Corps, Assistant Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.
10. Raja Mangal Sing, Bahadur, of Bhinai, Ajmir District.
11. Molesworth, Guilford Lindsay Esq., M. Inst C.E., Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for State Railways.
12. Moung Oon Esq., Second Judge of the Small cause court at Rangoon.
13. Thompson, Surgeon Daniel Robert, M.D. Surgeon First District, and Medical Inspector of Emigrants, Madras.
14. Tenant, Lieutenant colonel James Francis, R E., Mint Master, Calcutta,
15. Wingate, Andrew, Esq., Bombay civil Service, Assistant Secretary, Famine commission.

We are glad to observe that Indian journalism has been honored in the persons of Mr. Allen, late proprietor of the *Pioneer*, and Mr. Digby, editor of the *Madras Times*, who worked very hard as Honorary Secretary to the Famine Relief Committee of Madras. It is worthy of remark that not a single Bengali gentleman has been deemed deserving of a place in the above list.

His EXCELLENCY the Viceroy and Governor-General is pleased to confer upon the Rajah of Faridkote, in the Punjab, the title of "Farzand-i-Seadut-i-Nishan-i-Hazrat-i-Kaisar-i-Hind. The following gentlemen have received the title of Raja, Rai Bahadur, Khan Bahadur and Rao Bahadur, and Rao Saheb respectively :

Rais Sher Jung Bahadur, of Sohawol, Baghhelcund, central India.

Sukhmangal Sing, Talukder of Shahmau, Rai Bereli, Oudh.

Rai Jiwan Lal, Honorary Magistrate, Delhi, Punjab.

Babu Jagge Bundhu Bose, late 1st Grade Inspector of Police, Dacca District, Bengal.

Syad Niamut Ali Khan, Diwan of Serohi, Rajputana.

Khan Mahabun Buksh, Honorary Magistrate, Delhi, Punjab.

Manjery Ahmad Gurikul, Inspector of Police in Malabar, Madras.

Tanjore Gopal Rao, Officiating Principal of the Provincial College, Combaconum, Madras.

Harilal Amba Shankar, late the Subordinate Judge of Kaira, Bombay.

THE ONLY CEREMONY held in Calcutta on New Year's Day was the opening of a Fine Arts Exibition. Mr. Justice Louis Jackson in a short introductory speech asked His Excellency to open the exhibition. We give below the exordium :

My Lord,—In asking your Excellency to perform the function for which this day has been chosen, we desire to welcome you back to Calcutta, the metropolis of British India, the centre of British industry and enterprize in the East ; we desire to reclaim you for a moment from the sterner cares of Empire, and we desire to offer our sincere felicitations on the successful conduct of public affairs during a crisis of no common importance and difficulty.

My Lord, the situation which I hold in the public service forbids me to enter on a discussion of political topics, but it does not deprive me of my right of judgment or preclude the exercise of my memory. I have read the State papers which closed the long series of Cabul correspondence. I am old enough in India to recollect Lord Dalhousie's challenge to the Sikh Soldiery and the Sikh Durbar, and I am glad to think that the British interests in India, the name of England and the honor of her Majesty's arms are committed to no unworthy successor of him who was rightly called the great Pro-consul.

My Lord, in addressing you on the formal points of this day's business, I am merely the representative and mouthpiece of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, my hon'ble friend Sir Ashley Eden whose farseeing and vigorous administration gives promises of providing for all the wants of this vast province.

At the Exhibition of 1876 Sir Richard Temple as Lieutenant Governor of Bengal commenced the ceremony, but on this occasion Sir Ashley Eden generously made room for Mr. Justice Jackson. The compliment was of course well deserved. His Excellency the Viceroy as usual was happy in his address. He thus spoke of Simla :

The pencil of Mr. Noakes has bequeathed to the walls of this gallery a very faithful and effective picture of its high rugged hills and low ricketty houses. It figures on our

maps as Simla, but in our newspapers as *Capua*. And the question that puzzles me is why Simla should be called Capua. The ancient Capua was, I believe, a very delightful place, regarded by its inhabitants and visitors as the abode of every enjoyment which unlimited luxury can provide for unlimited leisure. But I must frankly confess that in my own experience of this modern Capua and I believe it in no wise differs from that of all my fellow-workers there, I have enjoyed so little leisure, and discovered so little luxury, that till the other day I could think of no other reason why Simla should be called Capua than that which induced the Greeks to call the Furies the sweet-tempered ones, although their society was the reverse of soothing. A few days ago, however, I had the advantage of a short conversation with the accomplished principal of the Calcutta School of Arts, and this opened my mind to a new light on the question. For I gather from Mr. Locke that, in establishing an annual Exhibition of pictures, Calcutta has taken from Simla an influence and an example, which, though I trust, they will not corrupt the Carthaginian virtues of this metropolis, have undoubtedly the Capua quality of promoting enjoyment.

Although Lord Lytton's defence of Simla was not quite successful, still we believe that if His Lordship had his own way, he would not perhaps go to that retreat annually. His Lordship does not see its charms, but he cannot we believe afford to quarrel with his officers and their wives, and so His Lordship we are inclined to think yields. But let that pass. In conclusion his Lordship said:

In short, the present Exhibition, like the Government of India, embraces a great number of subjects, Native and European. And like the Government of India, I doubt not it will furnish occasion for a great number of criticism upon the treatment of those subjects, but I hope and believe that the hostile critics will be in the minority.

We entirely agree. The Exibition is a success, considering the short time within which it has been got up, and credit is due to all persons connected with it. Mr. Locke fully deserves the compliments paid him.

WE ARE glad to observe that the Municipal Commissioners have resolved to put their house in order. Mr. Metcalfe's budget shewed a deficit of Rs. 4,34,000, after raising the rates to the aggregate of 20 per cent., whereas Mr. Souttar's Budget shews a surplus of Rs. 1,05,000 with the total rates at 18 per cent. or an increase of 1¼ per cent. upon the existing rates. The Commissioners appointed a Sub-Committee for the revision of establishments, who made reductions upon Mr. Metcalfe's estimates to the tune of Rs. 80,000 per annum. The other reductions effected come to about four lacs of rupees. We give the details below:

GENERAL FUND

Reduction of establishment	Rs.	*Reduction of Establishment.*	
		Squares ..	735
Secretary's Establishment	420	Conservancy Department	9156
Account Department ...	2004	Street Watering ...	6240
Bill Department ...	6324	Drainage Pumping Station ...	1080
Assessor's Department ...	1100	Night soil Department ...	20088
License Department ...	1140		
Store Department ...	3600	Total. ...	70485
Menial servants ...	1024	*Water works Establishment*	10356
Gowkhanahs ...	1308	Total. ..	80841
Engineer's Department ...	1440	Other Reductions in all Departments.	...399238
Road and conservancy Establishment ...	9576		
Health-Officer ...	3600	Grand total.	...480074
Warrant Department ...	1650		

The results of Mr. Metcalfe's and Mr. Souttar's Budgets will be seen in one view in the following statement:

Mr. Metcalfe's Budget		*Mr. Souttars Budget*	
General Fund		*General Fund*	
Deficit with House-rate at ...	Rs. 10%405586	Surplus with House-rate at ...	Rs. 10%37584
Water Rate		*Water-Rate*	
Deficit with rate at.	5%210	Surplus with rate at ...	4%27773
Lighting Rate		*Lighting-Rate*	
Deficit with rate at ...	2%24485	Surplus with rate at...	2%26957
Police Rate		*Police Rate*	
Deficit with rate at ...	3%4703	Surplus with rate at.	2¼%13116
Total. Rates —20% Total. Deficit ...	434984	Total. Rates ;—18¼% Surplus ...	105435

It is due to Mr. Souttar and to the Engineer to say that they heartily co-operated with the Committee in making retrenchments—indeed some of the proposals came from them direct. The Health-Officer has also set a good example of self-sacrifice by accepting in good spirit the reduction of his pay from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 700 per mensem. At the meeting the Commissioners confirmed the Budgets with the exception of two items, *viz.*, the salaries of the Treasurer and Warrant Superintendent, which had been reduced by one hundred rupees respectively. Mr. Souttar was for reduction, and with great good humour twitted the Commissioners with extravagance, when the Chairman pulled the other way. We do hope that the spirit of economy, which Mr. Souttar has shewn at the outset, will continue unabated. As for the two items mentioned, the Commissioners' proceedings in our opinion were perfectly fair. It is one thing to reduce establishment and another thing to reduce salaries. There was no proposition for a general reduction of salaries, and it was considered invidious to select only two unfortunate officers for this purpose. The case of the Health-Officer is quite different, because he holds other offices and is allowed to carry on private practice, and because he had originally consented to come in for Rs. 700 a month, which is by no means a small sum for an officer, who scarcely gives to the Municipality two hours of his time daily. The reductions negatived involve an expenditure of only Rs. 2400 per annum, and this is a mere flea-bite, considering that the aggregate reductions come to about 5 lacs. The CalcuttaCorporation has fairly launched itself with the New Year, and we have sufficient confidence in the present helmsman to cherish a hope that it will make a safe voyage through the year.

WITH REFERENCE to trust funds in the hands of Government, the Lieutenant Governor has issued the following orders:

All Government securities held by public officers in Bengal in any official capacity, and not being mere security deposits, should be endorsed to the Accountant-General and the Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal, jointly, and placed in the custody of the Accountant General, whose duty it would be—

(1) to keep a proper account of the securities in the manner prescribed for account offices;

(2) to publish every year in the Gazette a complete list of the securities showing the nature of the Fund to which each belongs, and the officer charged with the administration of it.

(3) to draw the interest on due dates, and remit it to each administering officer by an order payable at any treasury named by him.

(4) to report all cases in which the orders for the payment of interest are not cashed;

(5) to sell out any portion of the investment when required by competent authority to do so.

The Accountant-General should at the same time be informed in each case of the name of the Fund or Trust to which each security belongs, the object of the Fund or Trust, the official designation of the officer administering it, and the treasury at which he desires the interest to be drawn. If any legal obstacle should exist to the transfer of the securities in the way proposed, a special report of the circumstances of the case must be made to Government.

WAR TELEGRAMS.

Bombay, December, 31,—The following information has been specially obtained for two Bombay papers. Mir Afzal Khan continues supreme commander in Kandahar. Mahomed Yusoof Khan, Governor of Zindawar, has arrived to assist him. The present Garrison is regulars 8 Regiments, Cavalry 600 each, one Infantry 600 strong; Artillery five heavy guns. No field guns. 200 Zindawar Ghazie fanatics are shortly expected, also fifteen hundred amounted Irregulars from the villages and 1,500 of the Ameer's Cavalry. 400 Infantry are encamped outside, 200 are doing duty inside the city. The cavalry have a night piquet at Zaker, two and a half miles on the Quetta road. All the troops are armed with smoothbores. A general levy has been called will be armed and fed by the Amir. More yet collected. The walls are in decent repair. Irrigation channels have been turned on the country and road beyond Taktipul. The Pathan deserters from this force have arrived at Kandahar, received presents of money from the Governor and accepted service, although no pressure was put on them. The Amir has reminded Mir Afzal of the fate of the former Governor Amir Khan who rebelled at Kandahar and was executed. He has threatened a similar fate unless a good defence is now made. The chief cazy of the city has waited on the Governor demanding to know his intentions. He said if defence is made the people will back you up but if you intend to submit please dismiss the levies and do not bring ruin on the city. His reply was that a good defence would be made. The intention apparently is to draw up the forces at Zaker and make a short resistance and then retire behind the walls. The Governor has permitted all those unable store 10 days' provisions to leave the city. A secret correspondence between Kabul and Pisheen Khaker and Khelat sirdars is now going on. Delay in advancing the force has had a most pernicious effect.

From Jellalabad we hear that the camp has lately been annoyed by thieves one of whom was shot by a Sentry on the night of the 1st.

Three of the camels stolen by Afridis in the Khaibar Pass have been returned and more are being collected to be brought in.

Intelligence from Kandahar shows that there is a strong feeling against the Amir for having so entangled himself with the Russians.

Telegram from Jellalabad dated 2nd January states after usual parade of all corps, there on New Year's Day in Honor of the Empress of India, a Durbar was held at which the proclamation of November 20th. was read. Major Cavagnari addressed the chief and explained the intention of the British Government.

Fresh arrivals from Kabul confirm News of desertion among the Amir's troops.

The complicity of the Kukekhel of village Salaobini in recent robberies in the Khaibar having been proved they will be required to move to villages nearer Peshawar until these difficulties are over.

The Zakakhel have all come in except one Section Khasroji which is expected to follow.

A telegram dated Quetta January 2nd states, that General Stewart and a large proportion of his division marched on the 31st, via Ghawaja Pass towards Khandahar and General Biddulphs entire division is across the Khojak

Major Sandeman has returned to Quetta to arrange for the despatch of convoys and supplies and for their safety in the Khojak Pass. Food plentiful, but difficulties in trasport to be overcome.

Abdullakillah December, 26.—General Stewart's troops are moving on Gul stan Karez in accordance with plans laid down in divisional orders. Two new Batteries of Artillery have been told off to Biddulph's force. Palliser reaches Hause to-day communicating thence with Chaman. Commissariat officers have been told to purchase supplies and camels in Kandahar plain, but defective Commissariat transport still hampers the advance. A party of the Amir's Cavalry, numbering twenty-five sabres, are watching our movements from villages beyond Hause, otherwise the valley is clear of the enemy.

Peshawar January 2nd.—The Pass has been closed near the Shargai heights by Kuki Khels under Addulla Mir. Five miles of telegraph wire, laid up to Ali Masjid, have been cut and taken away. Doubts are entertained as to its reconstruction. The mails were stopped on the night of the 31st. A force of 3 guns D.A.R.H.A., 3 Companies of the 25th Broderers and the 24th N.I. have been sent out to clear the Pass.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Syud Kutbudden, Hajeepore	1	11	0
H. H. Moharajah of Jeypore	13	4	0
A. L. Banerjee and others, Ajoodhya	6	10	0
Head Master, Boloti School	13	4	0
Baboo Sree Kristo Bose, Simla	13	4	0
,, Jodoo Nath Sahai, Katwana	15	0	0
,, Mohender Persad, Chuprah	13	4	0
,, Janoky Nath Dutt, Meherpore	5	0	0
,, Gopee Churn Dutt, Sylhet	5	0	0
,, Okhoy Coomar Mookerjee, Bancoora ..	5	7	6
,, Mohim Chunder Bysak, Nattore	5	0	0
,, Bejoy Gobind Chowdry, Jungypore ...	13	4	0
,, Rajoni Nath Chatterjee, Kishengunge.	13	4	0
,, Probodhe Chunder Bose, Manickpore, Midnapore	10	0	0
,, Luckhi Nath Das, Mongoldai	6	12	0
,, Gobinda Proshad Das, Barisal	16	9	0
,, Bykuntha Nath De, Balasore	13	4	0
,, Kader Nath Sandyal, Kaderpore	5	0	0
,, Bepin Behary Chatterjee, Badurpore ...	7	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*January* 1, 1879.

GENERAL.—Mr. W. Fuidian, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bogra is transferred to the 24-Pergunnahs, and is appointed to officiate as Commissioner of the Soonderbuns, during the absence on leave of Mr. A. D'B. Gomess, or until further orders.

Mr. D. Cameron, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Nattore division of the Rajshahye district is allowed leave for two months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. C. H. Vowell, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector is appointed to act until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and collector of Rajshahye.

Mr. J. Whitmore Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Balasore is allowed subsidiary leave from the 24th October to the 19th November last,

In modification of the orders of the 21st instant Mr. H. Gillon Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade is appointed to have charge of the Nattore division of the Rajshahye district during the absence on leave of Mr. D. Cameron or until further orders.

Mr. W. D. Blyth Assistant Magistrate and Collector Sealdah 24-Pergunnahs is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district.

In supersession of the orders of the 15th August last Mr. F. M. Reily Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Rampore Hat Moorshedabad is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Hurry Churn Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on leave is posted to Chumparun.

Baboo Kasbi Kinker Sen Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector is posted to Bhagulpore. This cancels the orders of the 20th instant transferring him to Chumparun.

Mr. H. Mosley Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector who has reported his return from furlough is posted to the district of Durbhanga.

Rai Ram Sunker Sen Bahadoor Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs is allowed leave for three months under the rules in chapter VII of the civil Leave code.

Mr. W. N. Campbell Officiating Assistant Commissioner whose service have been replaced at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Madras is posted to Hazareebagh.

Baboo Gour Das Bysack Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Backergunge is vested with the powers of a collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871 with effect from the 11th instant.

Mr. A. C. Tute Assistant Magistrate and collector in charge of the Hajeepore division of the Mozufferpore district is allowed subsidiary leave from the 1st to 6th instant both days inclusive under Section 24 (b) of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. T. E. Ravenshaw Commissioner of the Burdwan Division having returned to India on the 20th instant is allowed subsidiary leave for one day from that date under Section 24 (b) of the Civil Leave Code to enable him to join his appointment.

Mr. L. D. Colledge Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Nuddia is transferred to Chittagong.

Baboo Krishna Chunder Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in charge of the Patooakhally division of the Backergunge district is allowed leave for three months under the rules in chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Ruttun Lal Ghose Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector in charge of the city Moorshedabad division of the Moorshedabad district is appointed to have charge of the Patooakhally division of the Backergunge district during the absence on leave of Baboo Krishna Chunder Dutt, or until further orders.

The unexpired portion of the privilege leave granted to Mr. C. A. Kelly, Officiating District and Sessions Judge Bankoora and Additional District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, under orders of the 2nd September last, is cancelled with effect from the forenoon of the 26th November last.

Mr. H. Mosley, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Durbhunga who reported his return from furlough on the 23rd instant, is allowed su sidiary leave for fifteen days from that date to enable him to join his appointment.

POLICE.—Mr. M. F. Beamish Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of the District Police Tipperah is allowed leave from the 1st to the 30th November 1878 inclusive.

Advertisements.

FINE-ART EXHIBITION.

165 & 166 BOW BAZAR STREET.

Open daily (Sundays except) from 8 to 11 A. M., and from 3 to 5 P. M.

Prices of Admissions.

SEASON TICKETS :

SINGLE	Rs.	3
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Catalogues Eight Annas each.

DISTRICT CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

The Office of the Society is at the Municipal Office, No. 4 Jaun Bazar Street.

The Society is in urgent need of funds, and contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by,

W. M. SOUTTAR,
Honorary Secretary.

The 2nd January 1879.

Notice.

A meeting will take place at my house on Sunday the 7th Maugh next, corresponding to the 19th January, at the hour of 3 P. M., for celebrating the memory of the illustrious Rajah Rammohun Roy. The proceedings of the meeting will be conducted in the manner detailed below. The presence of Brahmos is respectfully solicited on the occasion.

PROGRAMME.

(1.) The meeting to be opened with a short speech by Baboo Dijender Nath Tagore.

(2.) Singing of a divine song composed by the Rajah.

(3.) Discourse by Baboo Nagendranath Chatterjea on the achievements f Rajah Rammohun Roy.

(4.) Singing of a divine song composed by the Rajah.

(5.) Relating of anecdotes of the Rajah by Baboos Rajnarain Bose and Anand Chunder Bose.

(6.) Singing of a divine song composed by the Rajah.

(7.) Reading of discourse by Baboo Akhoy Coomar Dutt on Rammohun Roy from the "Tattwa Bodhini Patrika," by Pundit Shiva Nath Sastri, M.A.

(8.) Singing of divine songs composed by the Rajah.

After the proceedings are over the whole assembly will proceed to the Adi or the Original Brahmo Somaj established by Rajah Rammohun Roy and there sing in one chorus the celebrated hymn "Jaydeva Jaydeva."

DIJENDER NATH TAGORE.

Being myself, at present, above 75 years of age I cannot be expected to resort to the Public; but must say, I cannot be left out of sharing the melancholy events which have occurred to our venerable Prince family, to whom I am indebted for my support, and education in general from my youthful days, so that, since the administration of their Government all rest attended to me, and no danger occurred. I hope, Heaven will restores peace to the mind of our Ruler, and console the event that has unexpectedly occurred.

KALIPUDA GHOSAL.

In compliance with the request of Grish Chunder Birmochary I have offered a donation to erect a Vedant Tole ... ... Co.'s Rs. 50.

KALIPUDA GHOSAL.

YOUNG MEN'S ROWING CLUB.

Admission fee One Rupee.
Annual Subscription Three Rupees.
Donors of Rupees Ten and Upwards admitted free.

Bipin Behary Bose, and Hari Das Gargori. } *Joint-Secretaries.*

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Apply to *Printer.*

BURDWAN.

Agricultural Exhibition

Notice.

An Exhibition of agricultural produce, implements and Cattle of native arts and Manufactures: and of Live-stock, will be held at Burdwan on January 27th and the four following days. Copies of rules and list of prizes may be had on applica tion to the Honorary Secretary, Burdwan.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE, DINAGEPORE DIVISION.

Notice to Contractors.

COAL.

Tenders are invited for Rubble screened coal suitable for brick burning at,—

Pubna	4,284 Mds.
Bogra	12,025 ,,
Rungpore.....	2,962 ,,
Julpigooree	8,240 ,,

2. Tenders may be for the coal at all or any one of these places.

3. Contractors to deposit earnest money in accordance with the provisions on back of Public Works Form No. 14M, but the money may be deposited in the office of the Executive Engineer 1st Calcutta Division, a deposit certificate accompanying the Tender.

4. Samples of coal must be laid before the Executive Engineer 1st Calcutta Division for his approval, a certifiate of his having approved the same shall accompany the same.

5. Forms of Tender can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or from that of the Executive Engineer of the 1st Calcutta Division.

6. All Coal must be delivered by the 15th February 1879.

7. Tenders will be opened by the undersigned or his assistant at noon on the 15th January 1879. The undersigned does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Executive Engineer, Dinagepore Division.

Dated Rungpore, 24th December 1878.

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Are the best substitute for the natural organs,
Securing, without the slightest pain or inconvenience, the greatest amount of ease and comfort.
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Teeth stopped with Gold, Amalgam, and other fillings.
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Price per box Rs. 2, postage & 8 annas.
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Price 7 grains per Rupee or Rs. 24 per Tolah.
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All the above preparations are perfectly innocuous and may be taken by persons of all sexes and ages with perfect safety.

BINOD LAL SEN, KOBIRAJ,
Manager

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BY APPOINTMENT
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LORD LYTTON, G.M.S.I.
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GILLINGWATER'S ATRAPILATORY OR LIQUID HAIR DYE.

For changing the Hair on the Head, Eyebrows, Whiskers, or Moustachios to a permanent Brown or Black.

In cases, Rs. 3 cash ; Rs. 3-8 credit.

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Langdale's Amyl Hair Dye.....	3	0	3	8
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Saunder's Guard's Hair Dye.....	2	8	3	0
Beetham's Improved Hair Dye.....	3	0	3	8
Rowland's Essence of Tyre.....	3	8	4	0
Bathgate's Instantaneous Jet Black..	3	0	3	8
Truefitt's Tincture Dye.....	5	0	6	0
Hovenden's Eau de Fees.....	3	8	4	0
,, Nuda Veritas.....	5	0	6	0
Rowland's Melacomia.....	4	0	5	0
Truefitt's Eau Racine des Indes...	4	8	5	0

Sandell's Hair Restorer.

Is totally different from any other kind, and has been pronounced by the medical profession to be perfectly harmless. It will positively restore Grey or White Hair to its original colour in a few days without dyeing it, or leaving the disagreeable smell of many other restorers.

Price, per bottle, Re. 1-4 cash ; Re 1-8 credit.
,, large ,, Rs. 2-4 ,, Rs. 3 ,,

The Mexican Hair Renewer.

For renewing and restoring the Hair.

Restores Gray Hair to its original colour without dyeing it, causes it to grow on bald spots, prevents it from falling out, cures dandriff, makes the Hair soft, and is, in short, a toilet luxury which should be used by all.

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.
General Court of Directors.
Right Hon'ble Lord Lawrence, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., & P.C., Chairman.
Report by the Directors
PRESENTED TO THE
Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company,
Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last :—

Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003.580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049 : 10 : 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863 : 10 : 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446 : 17 : 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576 : 19 : 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248 : 8 : 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768 : 11 : 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479 : 16 : 6.

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INFALLIBLE PAIN-CURER.

Warranted to cure pains of every description arising from whatever cause, on any part of the human frame. A certain cure for Pains in the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Tightness of the Chest, Headache, Neuralgia, Colics, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Swellings, Old Sores, Piles, Ringworm, Pimples, Freckles, or spots on the face, and Eruptions on the Skin.

Pains of every description have been cured by the outward application only of this medicine, when all the skill of the medical art has been tried without effect.

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The following is from an influential zemindar, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality of Burisaul, and one who writes after taking from us 9 bottles of the Infallible Pain-Curer.

MESSRS. DARLINGTON & Co., 49 Dhurrumtollah St. Calcutta.

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GENTLEMEN,—I enclose two currency notes of ten rupees each and beg you will kindly send me eight bottles more (large size) of your famous "Infallible Pain-Curer which is undoubtedly worthy of its name. Yours most obediently, Digamber Pershad, English teacher to Baboo Sreedhur Sahi, Zemindar of Manjha, camp Ajodhya in Fyzabad.

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Dated Allipore } R. C. Sterndale
The 12th December 1878. } *Vice-Chairman.*

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Each complete in morocco case.

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A single administration during menses generally cures the disease and brings on conception."

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